# Daily Devotion

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# Daily Devotion

CONSISTING OF

## Bible Selections
## and
## Devotional Prayers

ARRANGED BY

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This little Book, consisting of a Bible Reading, and Prayer, for each day, is arranged for personal devotion, or family worship, to inspire all busy people, especially those just beginning the Christian life, to a more vital knowledge and comprehensive study of the whole Bible.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to those who contributed prayers, and entered so cheerfully and sympathetically into the development of the enterprise.

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# Daily Devotion

# Daily Devotion

## The Creation

*Bible Reading 1* *Genesis 1:2:*

IN the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmanent, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth put forth grass, herbs yielding seed, *and* fruit-trees bearing fruit after their kind, wherein is the seed thereof, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, wherein is the seed thereof, after their kind: and God saw

that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days and years: and let them be for lights in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made the two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made* the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of heaven to give light upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

And God said, Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created the great sea-monsters, and every living creature that moveth, wherewith the waters swarmed, after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind, cattle, and creeping things, and beasts of the earth after their kind: and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the ground after its kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them: and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and

replenish the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the heavens, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food: and to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the heavens, and to everything that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, *I have given* every green herb for food: and it was so. And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

And the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and hallowed it; because that in it he rested from all his work which God had created and made.

## Prayer

*George Brewer*

WE praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord: All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting. Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy Glory.' And Thou art more gloriously revealed in the second creation—in human life, with its manifold powers and sacred responsibilities—with its wonder of being, seeing, hearing, feeling, knowing, and believing. But Thou art most gloriously revealed in Jesus Christ who has made disclosure of Thine inmost nature, and who, by His life, teachings, death, and resurrection has interpreted to us Thy creating purpose, reconciling love, and redeeming power. Therefore we come to Thee, our Redeemer, in simple faith, asking that, as we have been born in Thine image, we

may be restored to Thy likeness: that our sins may be forgiven, our lives purified; and that with a holy intuition for the things that are right, we may have a definite purpose in living, and a Christ-like passion for the service that taxes our highest powers, and best serves the needs of the world. As we face life's problems, keep us from hasty judgments, help us to see life-events in the true perspective of the years, and to live with more implicit trust in Thy loving plans and purposes, begun here, but to be consummated in eternity.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Garden of Eden

*Bible Reading 2* *Genesis 2:*

AND Jehovah God planted a garden eastward, in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made Jehovah God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became four heads. And Jehovah God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

And Jehovah God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him. And out of the ground Jehovah God formed every beast of the field, and every bird of the heavens; and brought them unto the man to see what he would call them: and whatsoever the man called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And the man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the heavens, and to every beast of the field; but for man there was not found a help meet for him. And Jehovah God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof: and the rib, which Jehovah God had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And the man said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she

shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed.

## Prayer

*Book of Worship*

MOST HOLY God, who lightenest every man that cometh into the world, enlighten our hearts, we pray Thee, with the light of Thy grace, that we may fully know our sins and our shortcomings, and may confess them with true sorrow and contrition of heart. Unveil Thy love to us, so that in its clear shining we may behold the sin of our rebellion, and may turn unto Thee in humility and fervent devotion. Deliver us, we pray Thee, from the tyranny of evil habit. Save us from acknowledging any sovereignty above Thine. Defend us when we are tempted to fields of transgression. Protect us from the allurements which assail the senses, and which entice us, through our fleshly desires, into impure delights. Loose us from the bonds of vanity and pride and remove every perverting prejudice which blinds our vision. Impart unto us the grace of simplicity. Give us a healthy recoil from all hypocrisy, from all mere acting in Thy holy Presence. Quicken our perception that we may realize Thy Presence and feel the awe of the unseen. Quicken our souls so that we may apprehend the things that concern our peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The First Sin

*Bible Reading 3* *Genesis 3:*

NOW the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which Jehovah God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of any tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as God, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat; and she gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig-leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of Jehovah God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Jehovah God amongst the trees of the garden.

And Jehovah God called unto the man, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be

with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And Jehovah God said unto the woman, What is this thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And Jehovah God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, cursed art thou above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy pain and thy conception; in pain thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in toil shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. And the man called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. And Jehovah God made for Adam and for his wife coats of skins, and clothed them.

And Jehovah God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever—therefore Jehovah God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden the Cherubim, and the flame of a sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

## Prayer

*James A. Patterson*

GRACIOUS God, the Father of all, revealed in loving mercy to us through Jesus Christ our Lord, we come to Thee to receive the pardon which our sins demand, the peace which our disobedience has banished and the restoration of the power which has been destroyed through voluntary transgression. We pray Thee for the grace to close our eyes against the things which appeal most strongly to our senses, whose luring appearance invites indulgence at the expense of peace of conscience.

Forbid that we should seek after experiences which can come to us only through the entrance upon forbidden paths: Make us willing the rather to be content with that ignorance which suggests innocency.

Help us to shun the gateway of dazzling promise which opens to the way of shame and death. Teach us, we pray Thee, that when our hearts begin to fail to respond to Thee, that death's shadow advances.

Open our eyes, we pray Thee, that we may be able to see and realize the way that leadeth from Thee, before there comes the awakening sting of an outraged conscience.

For the sake of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us, even Jesus our Lord. Amen.

# The Flood

*Bible Reading 4* *Genesis 6:7:8:*

THESE are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, *and* perfect in his generations: Noah walked with God. * * *

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. * * *

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

In the selfsame day entered Noah, and Shem, and Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah, and Noah's wife, and the three wives of his sons with them, into the ark; they, and every beast after its kind, and all the cattle after their kind, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth after its kind, and every bird after its kind, every bird of every sort. * * * And the flood was forty days upon the earth; and the waters increased, and bare up the ark, and it was lifted up above the earth. * * * And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both birds, and cattle, and beasts, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: * * * And Noah only was left, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth a hundred and fifty days.

And God remembered Noah, and all the beasts, and all the cattle that were with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged; the fountains also of the deep and the windows of heaven were stopped, and the rain from

heaven was restrained; and the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of a hundred and fifty days the waters decreased. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat. * * * And in the second month, on the seventh and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dry. And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth from the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. Bring forth with thee every living thing that is with thee of all flesh, both birds, and cattle, and every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth. And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, whatsoever moveth upon the earth, after their families, went forth out of the ark.

And Noah builded an altar unto Jehovah, and took of every clean beast, and of every clean bird, and offered burnt-offerings on the altar. And Jehovah smelled the sweet savor; and Jehovah said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake, for that the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

## Prayer

*David S. Kennedy*

MOST Merciful God our Savior, we humbly confess that in all history our race has been prone to wander from Thee and sin against Thee. Thou hast ever warned us, and plead for us to return. At times we have become so desperate of heart that Thou hast visited us with great and trying Providence as in the days of the flood, and now in our own day when for our sins and unbelief the whole world is in suffering, sor-

row and deadly danger, not from flood, but in fire and blood. As in the days of Noah Thou didst provide the ark, so later Thou hast given Thy Son, Only Begotten and Well-Beloved, to be the salvation of all who believe on Him.

Help us now, Blessed Father, to repent, to turn to Thee, and obey Thy will, that our souls, our families and our nations may be saved from sin and death of the present destructive wrath of man. Help us to see that the sin we cherish will surely cause corruption and death. Help us to see our Lord Jesus, the Ark of our safety, and may the Holy Spirit persuade and enable us to enter that Ark for the saving of ourselves and our house.

We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

# Israel's Beginning

*Bible Reading 5* *Genesis 13:*

AND Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the South. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold. And he went on his journeys from the South even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Beth-el and Ai, unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of Jehovah. And Lot also, who went with Abram, had flocks, and herds, and tents. And the land was not able to bear them, that they might dwell together: for their substance was great, so that they could not dwell together. And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle: and the Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelt then in the land. And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if *thou wilt take* the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if *thou take* the right hand, then I will go to the left. And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the Plain of the Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before Jehovah destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, like the garden of Jehovah, like the land of Egypt, as thou goest unto Zoar. So Lot chose him all the Plain of the Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. Abram dwelt in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelt in the cities of the Plain, and moved his tent as far as Sodom. Now the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners against Jehovah exceedingly.

And Jehovah said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward and southward and eastward and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then may thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for unto thee will I give it. And Abram moved his tent, and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built there an altar unto Jehovah.

## Prayer

*Selected*

O GOD of Israel, and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up our hearts to Thee, thanking Thee for the revelation of Thyself as Father. Foreshadowed even, in olden times, but in Jesus made clear when He came and taught us to call Thee "Our Father." We are Thy children, and if children then heirs—heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. Lord help us to realize our possibilities in Him. Save us from a low conception of living. Help us to live each day the life that lasts forever. Take away from us the love for sin; enable us to covet the best things, and to be renewed in our whole being after Thine image. Make us more efficient in Thy service—send us out on errands of mercy, and help us to do what we can for Thee. The world is full of needy souls. The air is resonant with calls for help. Then help us, Lord, to answer these calls up to the full measure of our powers. Keep us busy for Thee, and when we pray "Thy Kingdom come," help us to follow our prayer with the "Amen" of service. Bless our community, our land, and the nations of the world: Draw our hearts nearer to Thyself, and all kingdoms into Thine everlasting Kingdom.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Israel in Egypt

*Bible Reading 6* *Exodus 3:*

NOW Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to the mountain of God, unto Horeb. And the angel of Jehovah appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will turn aside now, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when Jehovah saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; * * * Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharoah, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be the token

unto thee, that I have sent thee: when thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, Jehovah, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, hath appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and *seen* that which is done to you in Egypt: and I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanite, and the Hittite, and the Amorite, and the Perizzite, and the Hivite, and the Jebusite, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. * * * And I will put forth my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians: and it shall come to pass, that, when ye go, ye shall not go empty: but every woman shall ask of her neighbor, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment: and ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall despoil the Egyptians.

## Prayer

*Edwyn Evans*

OUT of the depths do we cry unto Thee, O God, knowing that Thy wisdom cannot err, and that Thy goodness cannot fail.

Thou dost ever lead Thy people out of the bondage of sin and selfishness, those powers of darkness which hold in captivity the best that is in us. And by reason of this bondage, Father, do we ask that Thou wouldst lead us to a place of largeness and deliverance.

We are dissatisfied in that we have lived so poorly, so meanly, so selfishly; and we ask for the redeeming, purifying Spirit of the Christ to set us free from all that is base and earthly, and incline us towards all that is high and heavenly. Lord, let Thy Spirit brood over us and take possession of our souls, that we may glorify Thee through our deliverance by what we seek to be and by what we seek to do.

And grant, we beseech Thee, a vision—real, vivid and true—of the highest service we may render Thee. And grant unto us the power to obey what we see in our best moments alone with Thee. Hear us, for we pray in the name and in the Spirit of Christ our Savior. Amen.

# The Passover

*Bible Reading 7* *Exodus 12:*

AND Jehovah spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, This month shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you. Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth *day* of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household: and if the household be too little for a lamb, then shall he and his neighbor next unto his house take one according to the number of the souls; according to every man's eating ye shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old: ye shall take it from the sheep, or from the goats: and ye shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month; and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at even. And they shall take of the blood, and put it on the two side-posts and on the lintel, upon the houses wherein they shall eat it. * * * And thus shall ye eat it: with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is Jehovah's passover. For I will go through the land of Egypt in that night, and will smite all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am Jehovah. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and there shall no plague be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt. And this day shall be unto you for a memorial, and ye shall keep it a feast

to Jehovah: throughout your generations ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever. * * *

Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel, and said unto them, Draw out, and take you lambs according to your families, and kill the passover. And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side-posts with the blood that is in the basin; and none of you shall go out of the door of his house until the morning. For Jehovah will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side-posts, Jehovah will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you. And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever. And it shall come to pass, when ye are come to the land which Jehovah will give you, according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service. And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service? that ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of Jehovah's passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. And the children of Israel went and did so; as Jehovah had commanded Moses and Aaron, so did they. * * * And Jehovah gave the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have what they asked. And they despoiled the Egyptians.

## Prayer

*William H. Foulkes*

O LORD, if Thou shouldest mark iniquity, who, O Lord, shouldest stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee. We praise Thee to-day for the divine and eternal passover, wherein Thou dost forgive the sinner without condoning his sin. We praise Thee for the Paschal Lamb that was slain from before the foundation of the world, even our Lord Jesus Christ. We praise Thee that this atoning blood has been sprinkled

upon the door of this House, and that in His redeeming death we may find eternal life. We confess our unworthiness and hereby acknowledge that it is not because of any holiness in us but because of Thy great grace in Jesus Christ that we are saved. We pray most earnestly that we may be delivered from the power as well as the stain of sin. Grant unto us this day, in our personal lives, in our family relationships, in our places of toil, as well as in the hours of rest and refreshment, Thy heavenly favor.

Bless with us all Thy children everywhere, in all their varied and manifold needs, and hasten the coming of the Kingdom of Thy Dear Son our Savior, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Amen.

# The Red Sea

*Bible Reading 8* *Exodus 14:*

AND it was told the king of Egypt that the people were fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was changed towards the people, and they said, What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us? And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: and he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over all of them. And Jehovah hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: for the children of Israel went out with a high hand. And the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses *and* chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea. * * *

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians were marching after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto Jehovah. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to bring us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we spake unto thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it were better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which he will work for you to-day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. Jehovah will fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. * * *

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and Jehovah caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all the night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them into the midst of the sea, all Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen. And it came to pass in the morning watch, that Jehovah looked forth upon the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of cloud, and discomfited the host of the Egyptians. And he took off their chariot wheels, and they drove them heavily; so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for Jehovah fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

And Jehovah said unto Moses, Stretch out thy hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to its strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and Jehovah overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, even all the host of Pharaoh that went in after them into the sea; there remained not so much as one of them. But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. Thus Jehovah saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea-shore. And Israel saw the great work which Jehovah did upon the Egyptians, and the people feared Jehovah: and they believed in Jehovah, and in his servant Moses.

## Prayer

*Alexander Maclaren*

LORD God of Hosts, who didst guide our fathers out of the house of bondage and through the Red Sea

of war—guide us! Help us to see Thy faithfulness in every event of our chequered and changing lives. Help us to see how Thou hast smoothed our way in the past! Every thorn has been blunted; every cross has been lightened; our fears have been disappointed; our fondest hopes fulfilled. We will trust Thee in the future; if sorrow should darken our path, keep us from that guilty atheism which refuses to see in our trials any other hand but Thine.

We thank thee, O Lord, that we can come to Thee with all the burden of our weakness and weariness, of our cares and sorrows, of our failures and sins; and we beseech Thee that Thou wouldst take all the weight away from us, and help us with free hearts to draw nearer to Thyself and to live evermore according to Thy will as it is disclosed to us by Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

# Mount Sinai

*Bible Reading 9* *Exodus 19:*

IN the third month after the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. * * * And Moses went up unto God, and Jehovah called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be mine own possession from among all peoples: for all the earth is mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which Jehovah commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that Jehovah hath spoken we will do. And Moses reported the words of the people unto Jehovah. And Jehovah said unto Moses, Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and may also believe thee for ever. And Moses told the words of the people unto Jehovah. And Jehovah said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to-day and to-morrow, and let them wash their garments, and be ready against the third day; for the third day Jehovah will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. * * *

And it came to pass on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and

a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of a trumpet exceeding loud; and all the people that were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. And mount Sinai, the whole of it, smoked, because Jehovah descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. And when the voice of the trumpet waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. And Jehovah came down upon mount Sinai, to the top of the mount: and Jehovah called Moses to the top of the mount; and Moses went up. And Jehovah said unto Moses, Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto Jehovah to gaze, and many of them perish. And let the priests also, that come near to Jehovah, sanctify themselves, lest Jehovah break forth upon them. And Moses said unto Jehovah, The people cannot come up to mount Sinai: for thou didst charge us, saying, Set bounds about the mount, and sanctify it. And Jehovah said unto him, Go, get thee down; and thou shalt come up, thou, and Aaron with thee: but let not the priests and the people break through to come up unto Jehovah, lest he break forth upon them. So Moses went down unto the people, and told them.

## Prayer

*George L. Robinson*

O JEHOVAH GOD! Thou who didst manifest Thyself to ancient Israel at Sinai, covering the mount with Thy glory, teach us how to approach worthily into Thy presence, that we, too, may listen to the thunderings of Thy law. As we catch the echoes of Thy voice in the commandments which Thou hast given, may we spiritually behold Thee in Thy majesty, and reverently stand in awe of Thy person.

Teach us, also, how to purify ourselves, that we may draw near and learn Thy will. Help us to do so through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who, as our Mediator, has

opened up the way into the very innermost presence of the Almighty.

We remember the covenant which Thou didst make with the house of Jacob, to adopt them as Thine own, and to make of them a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. We rejoice in this highest and noblest of all possible national ideals, an ideal which is neither material nor military, but one of separation from, and of service to, the world.

Make us worthy of this high and blessed calling, through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Lord. Amen.

# Ten Commandments

*Bible Reading 10* *Exodus 20:*

AND God spake all these words, saying,

I am Jehovah thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Thou shalt not make unto thee a graven image, nor any likeness *of any thing* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them; for I Jehovah thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, upon the third and upon the fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing loving-kindness unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain; for Jehovah will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is a sabbath unto Jehovah thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long in the land which Jehovah thy God giveth thee.

Thou shalt not kill.

Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Thou shalt not steal.

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

And all the people perceived the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the voice of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they trembled, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before you, that ye sin not. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

## Prayer

*George Brewer*

HEAVENLY FATHER, we accept with thankful hearts the wonderful privilege of coming to Thee in prayer.

We thank Thee for Thy law—for Thy boundless love behind it, for the wondrous things in it, and for the Christ who was the perfect fulfilment of it. Believing in Thy Divine perfection, we come to Thee, asking that Thou wilt draw us into such fellowship with Thyself, that we may be delivered from all lawlessness, secularity, and sin, and be given such a vision of personal holiness, of civic justice, of business integrity, of social service, of national righteousness, and of world-wide compassion, that we shall have a holy zeal to do our utmost in bringing this world into harmony with Thy law, and into genuine devotion to Thy holy will. And we ask it in the name of Him who taught us when we pray to say: "Our Father, which art in Heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,

as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

# The Tabernacle

*Bible Reading 11* *Exodus 40:*

AND Jehovah spake unto Moses, saying, On the first day of the first month shalt thou rear up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. * * *

And it came to pass in the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was reared up. And Moses reared up the tabernacle, and laid its sockets, and set up the boards thereof, and put in the bars thereof, and reared up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle, and put the covering of the tent above upon it; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy-seat above upon the ark: and he brought the ark into the tabernacle, and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he put the table in the tent of meeting, upon the side of the tabernacle northward, without the veil. And he set the bread in order upon it before Jehovah; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he put the candlestick in the tent of meeting, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward. And he lighted the lamps before Jehovah; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he put the golden altar in the tent of meeting before the veil: and he burnt thereon incense of sweet spices; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he put the screen of the door to the tabernacle. And he set the altar of burnt-offering at the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt-offering and the meal-offering; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he set the laver between the tent of meeting and the

altar, and put water therein, wherewith to wash. And Moses and Aaron and his sons washed their hands and their feet thereat: when they went into the tent of meeting, and when they came near unto the altar, they washed; as Jehovah commanded Moses. And he reared up the court round about the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work.

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of meeting, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of Jehovah filled the tabernacle. And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward, throughout all their journeys: but if the cloud was not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of Jehovah was upon the tabernacle by day, and there was fire therein by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

## Prayer

*James H. Snowden*

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee that Thou didst reveal Thyself to Thine ancient people in the symbols of the tabernacle and altar and incense, but that in the fulness of time Thou didst remove the tent and the veil and reveal Thyself in the person of Thy Son, whose flesh was the true tabernacle and whose cross was the true altar. We rejoice that the former things were done away in order that more glorious revelations might come, that the shadows of the morning vanished in order that the undimmed splendor of the day might shine upon us. Give us the faith and vision to see Thy unveiled glory in the face of Thy Son Jesus Christ. May we know that as Thou didst remove the things that were shaken in order that the things that were not shaken might remain, so Thou hast yet many things to say unto us through Christ who

will be with us alway to lead us into all truth and grace, beauty and blessedness. May we trust in the sacrifice of His cross and send up to Thee the incense of our worship and service and sacrifice. Help us so to live and spread the gospel of Thy Son that its glory may speedily fill the whole world as the sky envelops the earth.

And this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Ritual of Atonement

*Bible Reading 12* *Leviticus 16:*

AND Jehovah spake unto Moses, after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before Jehovah, and died; and Jehovah said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the veil, before the mercy-seat which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy-seat. Herewith shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bullock for a sin-offering, and a ram for a burnt-offering. He shall put on the holy linen coat, and he shall have the linen breeches upon his flesh, and shall be girded with the linen girdle, and with the linen mitre shall he be attired: they are the holy garments; and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and put them on. And he shall take of the congregation of the children of Israel two he-goats for a sin-offering, and one ram for a burnt-offering.

And Aaron shall present the bullock of the sin-offering, which is for himself, and make atonement for himself, and for his house. And he shall take the two goats, and set them before Jehovah at the door of the tent of meeting. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for Jehovah, and the other lot for Azazel. And Aaron shall present the goat upon which the lot fell for Jehovah, and offer him for a sin-offering. But the goat, on which the lot fell for Azazel, shall be set alive before Jehovah, to make atonement for him, to send him away for Azazel into the wilderness. * * *

And it shall be a statute for ever unto you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall

afflict your souls, and shall do no manner of work, the home-born, or the stranger that sojourneth among you; for on this day shall atonement be made for you, to cleanse you; from all your sins shall ye be clean before Jehovah. It is a sabbath of solemn rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls; it is a statute for ever. And the priest, who shall be anointed and who shall be consecrated to be priest in his father's stead, shall make the atonement, and shall put on the linen garments, even the holy garments: and he shall make atonement for the holy sanctuary; and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar; and he shall make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make atonement for the children of Israel because of all their sins once in the year. And he did as Jehovah commanded Moses.

## Prayer

*William A. Quayle*

O LORD, we thank Thee that in Thy word, earth's grimmest enemy is called Sin: nor merely an error or mistake, but sin—that foul, deadly, damning enemy that God will not have about His throne or about Himself, or about His children. We thank Thee that here in Thy word Thou art teaching the dullest of us what sin is, and what God in His infinite love has done to rid us of it, even sending His Only-begotten Son, who in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin condemned sin in the flesh, and went out into death's grim wilderness to meet and to conquer sin.

We thank Thee for the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world. O Lord, take away our sins, and by Thy cleansing blood make us clean, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# The Temple Planned

*Bible Reading 13* *II Samuel 7:*

AND it came to pass, when the king dwelt in his house, and Jehovah had given him rest from all his enemies round about, that the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thy heart; for Jehovah is with thee. And it came to pass the same night, that the word of Jehovah came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith Jehovah, Shalt thou build me a house for me to dwell in? for I have not dwelt in a house since the day that I brought up the children of Israel out of Egypt, even to this day, but have walked in a tent and in a tabernacle. * * *

Then David the king went in, and sat before Jehovah; and he said, Who am I, O Lord Jehovah, and what is my house, that thou hast brought me thus far? And this was yet a small thing in thine eyes, O Lord Jehovah; but thou hast spoken also of thy servant's house for a great while to come; and this *too* after the manner of men, O Lord Jehovah! And what can David say more unto thee? for thou knowest thy servant, O Lord Jehovah. For thy word's sake, and according to thine own heart, hast thou wrought all this greatness, to make thy servant know it. Wherefore thou art great, O Jehovah God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears. And what one nation in the earth is like thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem unto himself for a people, and to make him a name, and to do great

things for you, and terrible things for thy land, before thy people, whom thou redeemedst to thee out of Egypt, *from* the nations and their gods? And thou didst establish to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever; and thou, Jehovah, becamest their God. And now, O Jehovah God, the word that thou hast spoken concerning thy servant, and concerning his house, confirm thou it for ever, and do as thou hast spoken. And let thy name be magnified for ever, saying, Jehovah of hosts is God over Israel; and the house of thy servant David shall be established before thee. For thou, O Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, hast revealed to thy servant, saying, I will build thee a house: therefore hath thy servant found in his heart to pray this prayer unto thee. And now, O Lord Jehovah, thou art God, and thy words are truth, and thou hast promised this good thing unto thy servant: now therefore let it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue for ever before thee; for thou, O Lord Jehovah, hast spoken it: and with thy blessing let the house of thy servant be blessed for ever.

## Prayer

*Ira Landrith*

O THOU Father and Fashioner of our spirits, Architect of our souls, Builder of our minds and our wills, we thank Thee for a share with Thee in making fit the temples wherein Thine own Spirit stoops to dwell, even our bodies. Help us to keep Thy dwelling place within us pure and clean and strong, swept free from evil deeds, cleansed constantly of unworthy desires, and made fresh and beautiful and fragrant with good-will and kindness and brotherly love. For Thee, O Guest Divine, we would furnish these bodies and minds of ours, and our souls, with high thinking and generous speech; with acts of unselfish helpfulness, and with the abundant riches and blessedness of the pure in heart.

In humble penitence and shame, we acknowledge the

sinfulness of our sin against Thee that we would have dishonored Thee by peopling with evil thoughts and words and deeds Thy chosen dwelling place. Henceforth, if Thou wilt help us with Thy wisdom, Thy pure spirit and Thy power, we would build more nobly and care for these living temples more affectionately, reserving them exclusively for Thee, that Thou mayest have comfort in us and peace, and that nevermore shall it be said of our hearts, "The Son of Man hath not where to lay His head." Dwell Thou in us then, O Lord, that through us Thou mayest work Thy righteous will among all to whom Thou sendest us, for it is in Christ's name that we ask it. Amen.

# The Temple Built

*Bible Reading 14* *I Kings 5:6:*

AND Hiram king of Tyre sent his servants unto Solomon; for he had heard that they had anointed him king in the room of his father: for Hiram was ever a lover of David. And Solomon sent to Hiram, saying, Thou knowest how that David my father could not build a house for the name of Jehovah his God for the wars which were about him on every side, until Jehovah put them under the soles of his feet. But now Jehovah my God hath given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary, nor evil occurrence. And, behold, I purpose to build a house for the name of Jehovah my God, as Jehovah spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build the house for my name. Now therefore command thou that they cut me cedar-trees out of Lebanon; and my servants shall be with thy servants; and I will give thee hire for thy servants according to all that thou shalt say: for thou knowest that there is not among us any that knoweth how to cut timber like unto the Sidonians. * * *

So Hiram gave Solomon timber of cedar and timber of fir according to all his desire. And Solomon gave Hiram twenty thousand measures of wheat for food to his household, and twenty measures of pure oil: thus gave Solomon to Hiram year by year. And Jehovah gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him; and there was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and they two made a league together. * * *

And the king commanded, and they hewed out great stones, costly stones, to lay the foundation of the house with wrought stone. And Solomon's builders and Hi-

ram's builders and the Gebalites did fashion them, and prepared the timber and the stones to build the house.

In the fourth year was the foundation of the house of Jehovah laid, in the month Ziv. And in the eleventh year, in the month Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof, and according to all the fashion of it. So was he seven years in building it.

## Prayer

*Victor Herbert Lukens*

O GOD, we thank Thee for the renewed inspiration for love of our Church which has come to us from this passage. We pray Thee that as in other days, holy men of old strove to beautify the house of Thy presence, so we may labor to make our Church, by beauty and order, a worthy place in which to worship Thee. Give to us, we pray, the sense of Thy good presence in our hearts when we gather for worship in our Church, in order that, being conscious of thy favor, we may find it easy, when within her walls, to lift up our spirits unto Thee.

Grant Thy blessing, we beseech Thee, to our pastor, filling his heart with grace that he may be able to break the bread of life to us. Help us so to aid him in the work of the gospel that our Church may prosper in every good word and work.

O God, we thank Thee, that we now need no temple wherein rises the smoke of the daily sacrifices, but that Christ Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our sins. Give to us, we humbly beseech Thee, an ever growing faith in the atoning merits of His death, not for ourselves alone, but also for the whole world.

This we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# The Temple Dedicated

*Bible Reading 15* *I Kings 8:*

THEN Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the princes of the fathers' ***houses*** of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of Jehovah out of the city of David, which is Zion. And all the men of Israel assembled themselves unto king Solomon at the feast. And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests took up the ark. And they brought up the ark of Jehovah, and the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the Tent; even these did the priests and the Levites bring up. * * *

And Solomon stood before the altar of Jehovah in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; and he said, O Jehovah, the God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above, or on earth beneath; who keepest covenant and lovingkindness with thy servants, that walk before thee with all their heart; who hast kept with thy servant David my father that which thou didst promise him: yea, thou spakest with thy mouth, and hast fulfilled it with thy hand, as it is this day. Now therefore, O Jehovah, the God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit on the throne of Israel, if only thy children take heed to their way, to walk before me as thou hast walked before me. Now therefore, O God of Israel, let thy word, I pray thee, be verified, which thou spakest unto thy servant David my father.

But will God in very deed dwell on the earth? behold,

heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded! Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Jehovah my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee this day; that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place whereof thou hast said, My name shall be there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall pray toward this place. And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: yea, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place; and when thou hearest, forgive.

## Prayer

*Raymond M. Huston*

OUR heavenly Father, in the atmosphere of the Holy Temple we come to adore Thee, in whose Name and to whose glory it was builded. Although Thou dwellest in a temple not made with hands, Thou dost visit Thy people when they meet in the sanctuary, and ofttimes Thy glory fills the Temple. Help us to revere all things sacred, most especially the House that is dedicated to Thy worship, and may we magnify the Church before men, by our loyal allegiance, faithful attendance, and devotional spirit. We thank Thee that Thou hast so honored man as to make him the temple of the Holy Ghost. May we be so filled with Thy glory, that our faces shall shine, and our whole being radiate joy and peace. Help us to put all confidence in Thy dear Son, who has espoused our cause, conquered our enemies, and is become our best Friend. Let us enjoy His fellowship made available for us, whether it be the fellowship of prayer, or of service, or even of suffering. Renew Thou our strength that we may mount up with wings as eagles, run and not be weary, walk and not faint. Thus will we give Thee the glory forever and ever. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 16* *Psalms 1:19:*

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor standeth in the way of sinners,
Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers:
But his delight is in the law of Jehovah;
And on his law doth he meditate day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water,
That bringeth forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also doth not wither;
And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
The wicked are not so,
But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous;
But the way of the wicked shall perish.

The heavens declare the glory of God;
And the firmament showeth his handiwork.
Day unto day uttereth speech,
And night unto night showeth knowledge.
There is no speech nor language;
Their voice is not heard.
Their line is gone out through all the earth,
And their words to the end of the world. * * *
The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul:
The testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple.
The precepts of Jehovah are right, rejoicing the heart:

The commandment of Jehovah is pure, enlightening the eyes.
The fear of Jehovah is clean, enduring for ever:
The ordinances of Jehovah are true, *and* righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the droppings of the honeycomb.
Moreover by them is thy servant warned:
In keeping them there is great reward.
Who can discern *his* errors?
Clear thou me from hidden *faults.*
Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins;*
Let them not have dominion over me:
Then shall I be upright,
And I shall be clear from great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in thy sight,
O Jehovah, my rock, and my redeemer.

## Prayer

*Charles N. Thorp*

OUR Loving Father: The flower turns toward the sunshine; so would we turn toward Thee. For Thou art the light of life; every morning Thy love wakens the world to the new day. We would walk in the light. May Thy dear Presence banish every secret sin, every doubt, every fear. We thank Thee for those abundant lives we know, like trees of righteousness, strong, fragrant, fruitful, fed from the river of God. We want to be like them. Open our eyes that we may behold the wondrous beauty of this world in which we live. May we say with exultation, "This is my Father's world." Show us our sins and help us to say from the heart, "I will arise and go to my Father." Forgive our sins; cleanse our thoughts; dwell in us richly in all wisdom. May the Gospel of Christ

illumine all nations. Strengthen and cheer every messenger of the light. Bless our loved ones. Fill us throughout this day with peace and joy and courage, in diligent service of the Master, and in glad fellowship with all the sons of light.

In the name of Jesus, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 17* *Psalms 23:24:*

THE Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He guideth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
Thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
Thou hast anointed my head with oil;
My cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and lovingkindness shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of Jehovah for ever.

The earth is Jehovah's, and the fulness thereof;
The world, and they that dwell therein.
For he hath founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the floods.
Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart;
Who hath not lifted up his soul unto falsehood,
And hath not sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive a blessing from Jehovah,
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
This is the generation of them that seek after him,
That seek thy face, *even* Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory will come in.
Who is the King of glory?
Jehovah strong and mighty,
Jehovah mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
Yea, lift them up, ye everlasting doors:
And the King of glory will come in.
Who is this King of glory?
Jehovah of hosts,
He is the King of glory.

## Prayer

*Oscar T. Corson*

HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for the memory of a Christian home about whose family altar we learned in childhood to pray to Thee and to revere Thy Holy Word. We are deeply grateful that Thou art, indeed, our Shepherd. that through Thee our souls may be restored, and that with Thee to guide our steps, we need fear no evil. We gratefully acknowledge that the earth is Thine, and we earnestly pray that Thy Will may be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Cleanse our hands, Dear Father, and purify our hearts that we may receive a blessing from Thee. Accept the gratitude of our hearts for our Savior, Thine Only Son, who died that we might have life, and that we might know Thy ways and be directed in the paths which will lead us home to Thee.

For the sake of Thy Dear Son, our Savior, pardon all our sins and help us to live nearer to Thee. May selfishness be removed from our lives and in its place may there come such a love for Thee and for our fellow-men as will make us willing to dedicate our lives and all that we have to unselfish service for others.

In Christ's Name we pray. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 18* *Psalms 42:46:*

AS the hart panteth after the water brooks,
So panteth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:
When shall I come and appear before God?
My tears have been my food day and night,
While they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?
These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me,
How I went with the throng, and led them to the house of God,
With the voice of joy and praise, a multitude keeping holyday.
Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
And *why* art thou disquieted within me?
Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him
*For* the help of his countenance.

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change,
And though the mountains be shaken into the heart of the seas;
Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled,
Though the mountains tremble with the swelling thereof.
There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God,
The holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved:
God will help her, and that right early.
The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved:

He uttered his voice, the earth melted.
Jehovah of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of Jehovah,
What desolation he hath made in the earth.
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;
He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder;
He burneth the chariots in the fire.
Be still, and know that I am God:
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.
Jehovah of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our refuge.

## Prayer

*J. R. Miller*

HEAVENLY FATHER, as the night has drawn its veil over the world again, we come to take refuge in Thee. Thou art our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble. We fear not the darkness, for Thou art in it. It is but Thy garment enfolding Thee. Thou art as truly in the darkness as in the light. May the wings of night be to us the wings of God, under whose shadow we shall find refuge, warmth, and blessing.

The day may also have shadows for us, or it may bring to us hardship and self-denial; but we shall not be afraid. Our path through gloom shall lead to joy and peace. So we will press on in patient self-denial, accepting the hardship, not shrinking from the loss. Our blessing lies beyond the hour of trial, our crown beyond the cross. Let us not falter in any experience. Let not the world have dominion over us. Help us to fix our eyes on the heavenly hills, and press on to the glory that waits for us there with Thee. Hear us, O God, and grant to us Thy blessing and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 19* *Psalms 51:84:*

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness:
According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity,
And cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions;
And my sin is ever before me.
Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,
And done that which is evil in thy sight;
That thou mayest be justified when thou speakest,
And be clear when thou judgest.
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity;
And in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts;
And in the hidden part thou wilt make me to know wisdom.
Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Make me to hear joy and gladness,
That the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Hide thy face from my sins,
And blot out all mine iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God;
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence;
And take not thy holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;
And uphold me with a willing spirit.
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;
And sinners shall be converted unto thee. * * *

How amiable are thy tabernacles,
O Jehovah of hosts!
My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of Jehovah;
My heart and my flesh cry out unto the living God.
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,
And the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
Even thine altars, O Jehovah of hosts,
My King, and my God.
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:
They will be still praising thee. * * *
O Jehovah of hosts,
Blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

## Prayer

*Samuel Johnson*

FATHER, in Thy mysterious presence kneeling,
Fain would our souls feel all Thy kindling love;
For we are weak, and need some deep revealing
Of trust, and strength, and calmness from above.

Lord, we have wandered forth from doubt and sorrow,
And Thou hast made each step an onward one;
And we will ever trust each unknown morrow,—
Thou wilt sustain us till its work is done.
In the heart's depth a peace serene and holy
Abides, and when pain seems to have its will,
Or we despair,—oh, may that peace rise slowly,
Stronger than agony, and we be still!

O Lord, in whose hands are life and death, by whose power I am sustained, and by whose mercy I am spared, look down upon me with pity. Forgive me that I have until now so much neglected the duty which Thou hast assigned to me, and suffered the days and hours of which I must give account, to pass away without any endeavor to accomplish Thy will. Make me to remember, O God, that every day is Thy gift, and ought to be used according to Thy command, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 20* *Psalms 90:91:*

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place
In all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
Or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.
Thou turnest man to destruction,
And sayest, Return, ye children of men.
For a thousand years in thy sight
Are but as yesterday when it is past,
And as a watch in the night.
Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep:
In the morning they are like grass which groweth up.
In the morning it flourisheth, and groweth up;
In the evening it is cut down, and withereth.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow the Almighty.
I will say of Jehovah, He is my refuge and my fortress;
My God, in whom I trust.
For he will deliver thee from the snare of the fowler,
And from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover thee with his pinions,
And under his wings shalt thou take refuge:
His truth is a shield and a buckler.
Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night,
Nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
For the pestilence that walketh in darkness,
Nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
A thousand shall fall at thy side,

And ten thousand at thy right hand;
*But* it shall not come nigh thee.
Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold,
And see the reward of the wicked.
For thou, O Jehovah, art my refuge!
Thou hast made the Most High thy habitation;
There shall no evil befall thee,
Neither shall any plague come nigh thy tent.
For he will give his angels charge over thee,
To keep thee in all thy ways.
They shall bear thee up in their hands,
Lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder:
The young lion and the serpent shalt thou trample under foot.
Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:
I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble:
I will deliver him, and honor him.
With long life will I satisfy him,
And show him my salvation.

## Prayer

*Ervin S. Chapman*

MOST Gracious God, our Father, aid us by Thy Spirit to realize the truth taught in Thy Word, that our home is in Thee. May we abide in that covert of security and peace and rejoice in the realization of Thy presence and companionship. May we hear Thy voice speaking to us in Thy Word and by the gracious influences of Thy Holy Spirit.

Aid us, we beseech Thee, to realize our frailty that we may trust only and wholly in Thee.

We thank Thee for the gift of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, through whom we have the pardon of sin and the work of Thy Spirit in regeneration and power

for service. We thank Thee for angelic ministration by which we are kept from accident and harm and upheld in all our ways. We praise Thy holy name for the exaltation and honor of fellowship with Thee in Thy power and glory, and for the assurance of Thy fellowship with us in trial and tribulation.

Oh! Thou Most High, to whom we look and in whom we trust, keep us ever and evermore in that security and peace which are found only in Thee, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 21* *Psalms 95:100:*

OH come, let us sing unto Jehovah;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.
For Jehovah is a great God,
And a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the deep places of the earth;
The heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, and he made it;
And his hands formed the dry land.
Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before Jehovah our Maker:
For he is our God,
And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. * * *

Make a joyful noise unto Jehovah, all ye lands.
Serve Jehovah with gladness:
Come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that Jehovah, he is God:
It is he that hath made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise:
Give thanks unto him, and bless his name.
For Jehovah is good; his lovingkindness *endureth* for ever,
And his faithfulness unto all generations.

## Prayer

*Thomas à Kempis*

OH, Lord God, Thou holy Lover of my soul, when Thou comest into my soul, all that is within me shall rejoice. Thou art my Glory and the exultation of my heart; Thou art my Hope and Refuge in the day of trouble. Set me free from all evil passions, and heal my heart of all inordinate affections; that, being inwardly cured and thoroughly cleansed, I may be made fit to love, courageous to suffer, steady to persevere. Nothing is sweeter than Love, nothing more courageous, nothing fuller nor better in heaven and earth; because Love is born of God, and cannot rest but in God, above all created things. Let me love Thee more as the law of Love commandeth, shining out from Thyself.

Save us from blighting the fresh flower of any heart by the flare of sudden anger or secret hate. May we not bruise the rightful self-respect of any by contempt or malice. Help us to cheer the suffering by our sympathy, to freshen the drooping by our hopefulness, and to strengthen in all the wholesome sense of worth and the joy of life. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 22* *Psalms 103:*

BLESS Jehovah, O my soul;
And all that is within me, *bless* his holy name.
Bless Jehovah, O my soul,
And forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all thine iniquities;
Who healeth all thy diseases;
Who redeemeth thy life from destruction;
Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;
Who satisfieth thy desire with good things,
*So that* thy youth is renewed like the eagle.
Jehovah executeth righteous acts,
And judgments for all that are oppressed.
He made known his ways unto Moses,
His doings unto the children of Israel.
Jehovah is merciful and gracious,
Slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness.
He will not always chide;
Neither will he keep *his anger* for ever.
He hath not dealt with us after our sins,
Nor rewarded us after our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
So great is his lovingkindness toward them that fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
So far hath he removed our transgressions from us.
Like as a father pitieth his children,
So Jehovah pitieth them that fear him.
For he knoweth our frame;
He remembereth that we are dust.
As for man, his days are as grass;

As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.
For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone;
And the place thereof shall know it no more.
But the lovingkindness of Jehovah is from everlasting
to everlasting upon them that fear him,
And his righteousness unto children's children;
To such as keep his covenant,
And to those that remember his precepts to do them.
Jehovah hath established his throne in the heavens;
And his kingdom ruleth over all.
Bless Jehovah, ye his angels,
That are mighty in strength, that fulfil his word,
Hearkening unto the voice of his word.
Bless Jehovah, all ye his hosts,
Ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.
Bless Jehovah, all ye his works,
In all places of his dominion:
Bless Jehovah, O my soul.

## Prayer

*J. R. Miller*

OUR Father in Heaven, we ask Thee for simple childlike trust, that we may not be worried nor afraid in this world which is so full of evil. It is Thy world and Thy strong hand moves in all the experiences. Give us that confidence in Thee which shall enable us to do our part faithfully and well and then to leave all the results of our work in Thy hand. We thank Thee that the world is growing better. We thank Thee for the diffusion of Thy truth among the nations, for the great missionary movements which are carrying the gospel into all lands. We thank Thee for the increase of benevolence, for the spirit of brotherhood, for the philanthropy and human kindness shown in so many ways among men. May the spirit of Christ continue to get more and more possession of the hearts and lives of the people. May Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 23* *Psalms 119:121:*

OH how love I thy law!
It is my meditation all the day.
Thy commandments make me wiser than mine enemies;
For they are ever with me.
I have more understanding than all my teachers;
For thy testimonies are my meditation.
I understand more than the aged,
Because I have kept thy precepts.
I have refrained my feet from every evil way,
That I might observe thy word.
I have not turned aside from thine ordinances;
For thou hast taught me.
How sweet are thy words unto my taste!
*Yea, sweeter* than honey to my mouth!
Through thy precepts I get understanding:
Therefore I hate every false way.
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
And light unto my path. * * *

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains:
From whence shall my help come?
My help *cometh* from Jehovah,
Who made heaven and earth.
He will not suffer thy foot to be removed:
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, he that keepeth Israel
Will neither slumber nor sleep.
Jehovah is thy keeper:
Jehovah is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.

Jehovah will keep thee from all evil;
He will keep thy soul.
Jehovah will keep thy going out and thy coming in
From this time forth and for evermore.

## Prayer

*Albert W. Ryan*

O GOD, the Inspirer and Teacher of men, we thank Thee that Thou hast set us faring forth on the great adventure of life and hast called us to be sons of Thy Kingdom. Stir up within us the spirit of humility that we may lay hold on Thy heavenly wisdom. Give us grace so to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Thy Holy Word that it may be sweeter than honey to our mouths, a solace in all our troubles, a lantern to our feet and a light unto our paths. May the example of Him who went about doing good inspire us with a consecration to our noblest duty and highest service to Thee.

Gracious and blessed art Thou, our God. We glory in Thy unslumbering providence and we crave the strengthening benediction of Thy Holy Spirit that so we may unfalteringly love Thee and finally win our eternal inheritance. We ask all only through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 24* *Psalms 139:*

O JEHOVAH, thou hast searched me, and known *me.*
Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising;
Thou understandest my thought afar off.
Thou searchest out my path and my lying down,
And art acquainted with all my ways.
For there is not a word in my tongue,
But, lo, O Jehovah, thou knowest it altogether.
Thou hast beset me behind and before,
And laid thy hand upon me.
*Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is high, I cannot attain unto it.
Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?
If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there:
If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, thou art there.
If I take the wings of the morning,
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;
Even there shall thy hand lead me,
And thy right hand shall hold me.
If I say, Surely the darkness shall overwhelm me,
And the light about me shall be night;
Even the darkness hideth not from thee,
But the night shineth as the day:
The darkness and the light are both alike *to thee.*
For thou didst form my inward parts:
Thou didst cover me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks unto thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:
Wonderful are thy works;
And that my soul knoweth right well.

My frame was not hidden from thee,
When I was made in secret,
*And* curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.
Thine eyes did see my unformed substance;
And in thy book they were all written,
*Even* the days that were ordained *for me,*
When as yet there was none of them.
How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God!
How great is the sum of them!
If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand:
When I awake, I am still with thee. * * *
Search me, O God, and know my heart:
Try me, and know my thoughts;
And see if there be any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.

## Prayer

*Murray S. Howland*

TO Thee, O Father, who seest our hearts, and understand our desires and purposes, from whom no secret thought is hidden, we come, asking Thee to search us and try us. Thou knowest if there is any slow, unrecognized deterioration of character, any insidious progress of spiritual pride, any hardening of our sympathies toward others, especially those of different social conditions than our own. Thou knowest whether business custom, or social pressure, or material prosperity, are dulling our power of vision and lessening our faith in our brothers, and in the coming of Thy Kingdom on earth. Where Thou findest any evil way, reveal to us our sin, lead us to repentance and restore to us our Christian ideals. We thank Thee, Father, for Thy constant presence in the days of sorrow and blackness, in times of anxiety and loneliness. We bless Thee, for all Thy knowledge of us, for the wonders of Thy universe, for its mysteries which are still unsolved and for those which we are daily learning. Such knowledge brings us to our knees in wonder

and worship. Make us humble before Thee, open minded, alert to Thy guiding, and do Thou lead us in the way everlasting, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Psalms

*Bible Reading 25* *Psalms 145:*

I WILL extol thee, my God, O King;
And I will bless thy name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless thee;
And I will praise thy name for ever and ever.
Great is Jehovah, and greatly to be praised;
And his greatness is unsearchable.
One generation shall laud thy works to another,
And shall declare thy mighty acts.
Of the glorious majesty of thine honor,
And of thy wondrous works, will I meditate.
And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts;
And I will declare thy greatness.
They shall utter the memory of thy great goodness,
And shall sing of thy righteousness.
Jehovah is gracious, and merciful;
Slow to anger, and of great lovingkindness.
Jehovah is good to all;
And his tender mercies are over all his works.
All thy works shall give thanks unto thee, O Jehovah;
And thy saints shall bless thee.
They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom,
And talk of thy power;
To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts
And the glory of the majesty of his kingdom.
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And thy dominion *endureth* throughout all generations.
Jehovah upholdeth all that fall,
And raiseth up all those that are bowed down.
The eyes of all wait for thee;
And thou givest them their food in due season.
Thou openest thy hand,

And satisfiest the desire of every living thing.
Jehovah is righteous in all his ways,
And gracious in all his works.
Jehovah is nigh unto all them that call upon him.
To all that call upon him in truth.
He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him;
He also will hear their cry, and will save them.
Jehovah preserveth all them that love him;
But all the wicked will he destroy.
My mouth shall speak the praise of Jehovah;
And let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

## Prayer

*Book of Worship*

ETERNAL God, we rejoice that we can find a shelter under the shadow of Thy wing. We rejoice in the security that is offered to us in our midnights and in our noons. Thou wilt not leave us to the loneliness of self-communion, but Thou wilt hold fellowship with us along the way. Especially in these bewildering times wilt Thou steady our minds in Thy councils and inspire our hearts in the assurance of Thy sovereign love. Lead us along our troubled road. Let the heavenly light break upon our darkness. Help us to believe in Thy peace even when the world is at strife. Even when the world is filled with the smoke of battle may we discern the presence of the Lord. Save us from the sin of unbelief. Reveal to us, we humbly pray Thee, the sin in which all strife is born, and help us to turn from it in new consecration to Thee. Help us to look beyond the seen into the strength and glory of the unseen. Cheer us with Thy consolations. Impart to us the gift of Thy gracious peace, as promised us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Reward of Wisdom

*Bible Reading 26* *Proverbs 3:*

MY son, forget not my law;
But let thy heart keep my commandments:
For length of days, and years of life,
And peace, will they add to thee.
Let not kindness and truth forsake thee:
Bind them about thy neck;
Write them upon the tablet of thy heart:
So shalt thou find favor and good understanding
In the sight of God and man.
Trust in Jehovah with all thy heart,
And lean not upon thine own understanding:
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he will direct thy paths.
Be not wise in thine own eyes;
Fear Jehovah, and depart from evil:
It will be health to thy navel,
And marrow to thy bones.
Honor Jehovah with thy substance,
And with the first-fruits of all thine increase:
So shall thy barns be filled with plenty,
And thy vats shall overflow with new wine.
My son, despise not the chastening of Jehovah;
Neither be weary of his reproof:
For whom Jehovah loveth he reproveth,
Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.
Happy is the man that findeth wisdom,
And the man that getteth understanding.
For the gaining of it is better than the gaining of silver,
And the profit thereof than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies:
And none of the things thou canst desire are to be compared unto her.
Length of days is in her right hand;
In her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
And all her paths are peace.

## Prayer

*Frederick N. McMillin*

OH Thou who givest to all men liberally and upbraideth not, who givest light and life and knowledge and wisdom to the sons of men, grant us to understand, we beseech Thee, that when we learn from Thee we shall be wise indeed. May we not forget Thy law. May we walk in its precepts and heed its admonitions for our good. Help us that we may not be wise in our own eyes but wise indeed in the sight of the eternal. If Thou must teach us wisdom through chastening may we not rebel. In all our learning, grant that we may be taught of God. May we be wise in what we think, in what we say, in what we do, and in what we are. May we ever follow Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. May we never lose sight of the great truth revealed to us that this is life eternal to know Thee, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.

Though now, our Father, at best, we must see only through a glass darkly, grant to us to see, sometime, somewhere, face to face. May we all find the footpaths which lead at last to perfect peace and perfect understanding, and all we ask is in the name and for the sake of our Redeemer. Amen.

# Vanity of Possessions

*Bible Reading 27* *Ecclesiastes 1:3:*

I THE Preacher was king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom concerning all that is done under heaven: it is a sore travail that God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. That which is crooked cannot be made straight; and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I have gotten me great wisdom above all that were before me in Jerusalem; yea, my heart hath had great experience of wisdom and knowledge. And I applied my heart to know wisdom, and to know madness and folly: I perceived that this also was a striving after wind. For in much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow. * * *

For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he

laboreth? I have seen the travail which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised therewith. He hath made everything beautiful in its time: also he hath set eternity in their heart, yet so that man cannot find out the work that God hath done from the beginning even to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them, than to rejoice, and to do good so long as they live. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy good in all his labor, is the gift of God. I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor anything taken from it; and God hath done it, that men should fear before him. That which is hath been long ago; and that which is to be hath long ago been: and God seeketh again that which is passed away.

## Prayer

*James E. Freeman*

DEAR Heavenly Father, we bow ourselves before Thy divine presence, in humble acknowledgment of our dependence upon Thee. We are as children crying in the night, and with no language but a cry, and yet we believe that Thine ear is ever attentive to our cry and Thine heart ever responsive to our call. We acknowledge our weakness, we deplore our sinfulness, we remember our frailty. The vanity and wickedness of the world are so much with us early and late that, spending and being spent, we lay waste our powers.

Great Father of us all, teach us the true and abiding values of life. Make us to see and know that the things that are seen are temporal and that the things that are not seen are eternal. Teach us day by day to look beyond the passing events and issues of the hour and with supreme hope and confidence to trust in Thee. Permit not the world and its allurements to so enthrall us that we shall be unresponsive to Thy divine voice. Give us to know Thy plan and enable us, through the Holy Spirit's strengthening, to fulfil and

accomplish it. We can do no good thing without Thee. Do Thou therefore so control and direct us, that we shall be conscious of Thy presence all along the way of our pilgrimage. Hear us in this our prayer, we ask it in His name, Who died that men might live, Thy Son our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Remembering God

*Bible Reading 28* *Ecclesiastes 12:*

REMEMBER also thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; before the sun, and the light, and the moon, and the stars, are darkened, and the clouds return after the rain; in the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows shall be darkened, and the doors shall be shut in the street; when the sound of the grinding is low, and one shall rise up at the voice of a bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; yea, they shall be afraid of *that which is* high, and terrors *shall be* in the way; and the almond-tree shall blossom, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man goeth to his everlasting home, and the mourners go about the streets: before the silver cord is loosed, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returneth to the earth as it was, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; all is vanity.

And further, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he pondered, and sought out, *and* set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written uprightly, *even* words of truth.

The words of the wise are as goads; and as nails well fastened are *the words of* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd. And fur-

thermore, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

*This is* the end of the matter; all hath been heard: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole *duty* of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

## Prayer

*Phillips Brooks*

O LORD, by all Thy dealings with us, whether of joy or pain, of light or darkness, let us be brought to Thee. Let us value no treatment of Thy grace simply because it makes us happy or because it makes us sad, because it gives us or denies us what we want; but may all that Thou sendest us bring us to Thee, that, knowing Thy perfectness, we may be sure in every disappointment that Thou art still loving us, and in every darkness that Thou art still enlightening us, and in every enforced idleness that Thou art still using us—yes, in every death that Thou art giving us life, as in His death Thou didst give life to Thy Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

"Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever." Amen.

# The Holy One

*Bible Reading 29* *Isaiah 6:7:9:11:*

IN the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is Jehovah of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, Jehovah of hosts. * * *

And Jehovah spake again unto Ahaz, saying, Ask thee a sign of Jehovah thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt Jehovah. And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David: Is it a small thing for you to weary men, that ye will weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, when he knoweth to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land whose two kings thou abhorrest shall be forsaken. Jehovah will bring upon thee, and upon thy people, and upon thy father's house, days that have not come, from the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—*even* the king of Assyria.

But there shall be no gloom to her that was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali; but in the latter time hath he made it glorious, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. * * * For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this.

And there shall come forth a shoot out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Jehovah. And his delight shall be in the fear of Jehovah; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decide after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth; and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. * * *

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the root of Jesse, that standeth for an ensign of the peoples, unto him shall the nations seek and his resting-place shall be glorious.

## Prayer

*David J. Burrell*

O GOD, give me a vision of Thyself to-day. For this is life eternal, to know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Help me to hide in the cleft of the rock and hear, if nothing more, the rustle of Thy garment as Thou passest by. Unveil Thy beauty in the face of Thine Only-begotten Son. Show me Thy love, the love that passeth knowledge; Thy justice and righteousness which are as the high mountains; Thy holiness, before which angels and archangels cover their faces. Help me in view of Thyself to abhor my sins and find the healing comfort of Thy grace. Make me grateful for all Thy mercies and patient under Thy chastening hand. If ever life seems hard and lonely, show me the things which Thou hast prepared for them that love Thee. Make me brave to live and willing, in Thy time, to enter on the life eternal. Enlarge my heart to think of others. Bless all whose lot is harder than mine. Remember those who have no Gospel. Reclaim the wandering. Glorify Thyself in Thy church and in the triumphs of Thy grace; for Jesus' sake. Amen.

# The Holy One's Reign

*Bible Reading 30* *Isaiah 35:*

THE wilderness and the dry land shall be glad: and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon: they shall see the glory of Jehovah, the excellency of our God.

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *with* the recompense of God; he will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the glowing sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water: in the habitation of jackals, where they lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for *the redeemed*: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err *therein.* No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up thereon; they shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there:* and the ransomed of Jehovah shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads: they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## Prayer

*Charles L. Thompson*

ALMIGHTY God, our Heavenly Father, in a world of desolations we pray to-day for the coming of Thy Kingdom. We still believe in its coming. Amid all our trials we steady our faith against prophets and apostles. We believe bloom is coming to the wilderness and the desert. In a time when the very earth seems trembling, may we hear Thy voice speaking to the fearful heart, saying, "Fear not, thy God is coming."

Lord, save us from unbelief. Open our eyes that we may see. Unstop our ears that we may hear. Loose our tongues that even now we may be able to sing, because through all the wreck of these days the way of holiness is being prepared, the path to a victory of righteousness and peace, a path where the redeemed shall walk and on which a ransomed world shall come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy.

Lord, we cannot see these days of a coming peace and joy, but we can believe in Thee. If ever events seem to threaten even our confidence in Thy promises, we want to fall back on Thee. Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief. Keep us calm and trustful, resting in the Lord.

Help us, O our Father, while with all Thy saints we still are praying "Thy Kingdom come." And all this we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

# The Comforter

*Bible Reading 31* *Isaiah 40:41:*

COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she hath received of Jehovah's hand double for all her sins.

The voice of one that crieth, Prepare ye in the wilderness the way of Jehovah; make level in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low; and the uneven shall be made level, and the rough places a plain: and the glory of Jehovah shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it.

The voice of one saying, Cry. And one said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the breath of Jehovah bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up on a high mountain; O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold, your God! Behold, the Lord Jehovah will come as a mighty one, and his arm will rule for him: Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom, *and* will gently lead those that have their young. * * *

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard? The everlasting God, Jehovah, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary; there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint.

Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

## Prayer

*William I. Wishart*

O LORD, we thank Thee for the Gospel of the Strengthening Presence, and of Comfort. We are glad for them that have told good tidings to Zion. This sin-weary, war-rent world is a discouraging place to live in, if even for a moment we get apart from Thee. And we confess that sometimes anxiety and fear have gripped our hearts and pushed us far along the road toward Doubting Castle. When we think only of our troubles and the things that threaten and hinder, we grow weak and faint with fear. But when we think of Thee and Thy great kindness and forgiving love, and Thy promise forever to save and keep those that trust Thee, and Thy purpose of grace for this world, then, O Lord, we feel new courage and hope and we find it in our hearts to sing songs in the night and even to thank Thee for the shadows that have made us creep closer to our Comforting Father.

Lord, forgive our doubting and fear. Hold us by Thy hand and keep us so true to Thee that in every moment of stress we may hear Thy voice saying, "Fear thou not, for I am with Thee." This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

# God's Servant

*Bible Reading 32* *Isaiah 42:43:*

BEHOLD, my servant, whom I uphold; my chosen, in whom my soul delighteth: I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry, nor lift up his voice, nor cause it to be heard in the street. A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench: he will bring forth justice in truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set justice in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law.

Thus saith God Jehovah, he that created the heavens, and stretched them forth; he that spread abroad the earth and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I, Jehovah, have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house. I am Jehovah, that is my name, and my glory will I not give to another, neither thy praise unto graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

But now thus saith Jehovah that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel: Fear not, for I have redeemed thee; I have called thee by thy name, thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee: and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned, neither

shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am Jehovah thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour.

## Prayer

*Charles F. Wishart*

O GOD, our hearts are awed when we think of Thy majesty, but they are melted when we consider Thy tenderness. When confronted by Thine infinite greatness, we wonder and adore; but comforted by Thine infinite goodness, we rejoice in the love that will not break the bruised reed or quench the smoking flax. Teach us, our Master, that both Thy strength and Thy tenderness are the guarantee of our freedom, that we who are bondsmen in the prison house of sin, may be indeed prisoners of hope; that we who sit in darkness may rejoice in the coming light. Grant us then, that in the dark shadow of these tragic times, we may not be afraid. Conscious that the waters cannot overflow, that the fire cannot burn us, may we walk the way of the cross without fear. The comfort which we have in Thee, help us to give to others. May every lonely heart on the plain or mountain side, in the crowded city, or the quiet hamlet; may those who suffer or minister in the hospitals all around the world; may every mother who kisses her cross with lips that quiver, find in Thee all-present comfort and through Thee the victory that overcomes the world. For this we pray through Him who has, according to His promise, sent us the Great Comforter. Amen.

# Redemption

*Bible Reading 33* *Isaiah 52:*

AWAKE, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean. Shake thyself from the dust; arise, sit *on thy throne,* O Jerusalem; loose thyself from the bonds of thy neck, O captive daughter of Zion.

For thus saith Jehovah, Ye were sold for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money. For thus saith the Lord Jehovah, My people went down at the first into Egypt to sojourn there: and the Assyrian hath oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what do I here, saith Jehovah, seeing that my people is taken away for nought? they that rule over them do howl, saith Jehovah, and my name continually all the day is blasphemed. Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore *they shall know* in that day that I am he that doth speak; behold, it is I.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace, that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation, that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! The voice of thy watchmen! they lift up the voice, together do they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when Jehovah returneth to Zion. Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem; for Jehovah hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. Jehovah hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch

no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; cleanse yourselves, ye that bear the vessels of Jehovah. For ye shall not go out in haste, neither shall ye go by flight: for Jehovah will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your rearward.

Behold, my servant shall deal wisely, he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Like as many were astonished at thee (his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men), so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they understand.

## Prayer

*George Matheson*

POSSESS my soul, O Christ! I feel that something *must* possess me. My heart cannot be its own master; it must be ruled either from above or from below. I have no life within me strong enough to rule me from above; if Thou leavest me alone the lower life will conquer. Come into my soul, O Christ! Come, and take the place from which my higher self has fled. Come, and restrain the advance of the lower man. Come, and possess the gates of my enemies—the gates by which they issue forth on me. Come, and make me Thy captive evermore. Put Thy fetters on me—Thy golden fetters which make free. Put Thy mark on me—Thy mark of ownership which ennobles. Put Thy fear in me—that fear of meanness which makes the coward brave. Put Thy yoke upon me—that yoke of love which makes the burden light. I shall own no other master when I am possessed by Thee, O Christ. Amen.

# The Suffering Servant

*Bible Reading 34* *Isaiah 53:*

WHO hath believed our message? and to whom hath the arm of Jehovah been revealed? For he grew up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, yet when he was afflicted he opened not his mouth; as a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep that before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who *among them* considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke *was due*? And they made his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death; although he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it pleased Jehovah to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong his

days, and the pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by the knowledge of himself shall my righteous servant justify many; and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors: yet he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

## Prayer

*C. G. Rosetti*

O THOU Suffering Servant! by virtue of Thy victory give us also, we entreat Thee, victory. Let Thy pierced Heart win us to love Thee. Thy torn hands incite us to every good work, Thy wounded feet urge us on errands of mercy, Thy crown of thorns prick us out of sloth, and Thy thirst draw us to thirst after the Living Water Thou givest: Let Thy life be our pattern while we live, and Thy death our triumph over death when we come to die.

O Lord, who art our Guide even unto death, grant us, we pray Thee, grace to follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest. In little daily duties to which Thou callest us, bow down our wills to simple obedience, patience under pain or provocation, strict truthfulness of word and manner, humility and kindness.

O Lord God, who art as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land, who beholdest Thy weak creatures, weary of labor, weary of pleasure, weary of hope deferred, weary of self, in Thine abundant compassion and unutterable tenderness, bring us, we pray Thee, unto Thy rest, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Amen.

# The Offer of Redemption

*Bible Reading 35* *Isaiah 55:*

HO, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live: and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. Behold, I have given him for a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander to the peoples. Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not; and a nation that knew not thee shall run unto thee, because of Jehovah thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto Jehovah, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith Jehovah. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, and giveth seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I

please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing; and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir-tree; and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle-tree: and it shall be to Jehovah for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

## Prayer

*Joseph A. Vance*

O BLESSED God, what a wonderful thing it is to slake our thirst at Thy fountain, and to feed our hungry souls in Thy green pastures! We have often put to our lips dippings from the brackish waters of the world, and our thirst has turned to torture. We have often made our hunger worse by feeding on things sweet to taste, but afterwards bitter and blighting.

Now we would incline our ear to the prophet's call, and feed on the "wine and milk without money and without price."

Turn us, O God, from every wicked way. Let Thy healing grace come upon our wasted energies and withered spirits as "showers upon the new-mown grass," and lead us forth to do our duty with a glad heart.

If our spirits are troubled over our past waywardness, and if we are careworn and anxious about tomorrow, grant us the peace that comes from trusting Him who watches the sparrow's fall.

Let the fir-tree spring up in our lives in place of the thorn, and keep us from ever growing callous to the Spirit's touch or deaf to His voice.

And we ask it in the name of Him who is our Savior, and through whose death for us on Calvary we still look for the sure mercies of David. Amen.

# The Redeeming One

*Bible Reading 36* *Isaiah 60:61:*

THE Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me; because Jehovah hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening *of the prison* to them that are bound; to proclaim the year of Jehovah's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah, that he may be glorified.

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and foreigners shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But ye shall be named the priests of Jehovah; men shall call you the ministers of our God: ye shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves. Instead of your shame *ye shall have* double; and instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their portion: therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be unto them. For I, Jehovah, love justice, I hate robbery with iniquity; and I will give them their recompense in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which Jehovah hath blessed.

Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of Jehovah is risen upon thee. For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples; but Jehovah will arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And nations shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

## Prayer

*Floyd W. Tomkins*

DEAR Lord, my Redeemer and my Savior, I thank Thee that I can come to Thee and find Thee always ready to hear and to bless. Thou knowest my heart and so I am not afraid to come. Thou lovest me, and so I long to come. Thou hast a work for me to do for Thee, and so I come eagerly and gladly. How wonderful Thou art, O Thou blessed Christ, in Thy friendship and care! To whom could I go save to Thee? I come hungry and Thou dost feed me. I am weary and Thou dost rest me. I come in weakness and Thou dost strengthen me. I love Thee, dear Jesus. Help me to love Thee more. Take away all that can come between Thee and me. Wash me from sin, known and unknown, that I may be made fit for Thy holy presence. Lead me in the way Thou hast prepared for me and help me to work for Thee and with Thee. As I meet trouble, let me not be afraid; as I am perplexed, let me see Thy light to guide me. If I falter in doubt, speak Thou to my soul, and let me never forget that I am Thine since Thou hast died for me. Amen and Amen.

# Backsliding

*Bible Reading 37* *Jeremiah 8:*

MOREOVER thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith Jehovah: Shall men fall, and not rise up again? shall one turn away, and not return? Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return. I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repenteth him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turneth to his course, as a horse that rusheth headlong in the battle. Yea, the stork in the heavens knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle-dove and the swallow and the crane observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the law of Jehovah. * * *

And they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall; in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith Jehovah. I will utterly consume them, saith Jehovah: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig-tree, and the leaf shall fade; and *the things that* I have given them shall pass away from them.

Oh that I could comfort myself against sorrow; my heart is faint within me. Behold, the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people from a land that is very far off: Is not Jehovah in Zion? is not her King in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with foreign vanities? The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt: I mourn; dismay hath taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead? is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

## Prayer

*Common Worship*

MOST holy and merciful Father: We acknowledge and confess in Thy presence: Our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good: And all our shortcomings and offenses against Thee: Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned: In wandering from Thy ways: In wasting Thy gifts: In forgetting Thy love. But Thou, O Lord, have pity upon us; who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have displeased Thee. Teach us to hate our errors; Cleanse us from our secret faults; And forgive our sins; For the sake of Thy dear Son, our Savior. And O, most holy and loving Father; send Thy purifying grace into our hearts, we beseech Thee; That we may henceforth live in Thy light and walk in Thy ways; according to the commandments of Jesus Christ our Lord.

A new commandment Thou hast given us—that we should love one another. Lord, draw us to Thyself and teach us the power of love. Help us to learn that love is supreme, and hence envieth not, nor vaunteth itself, nor seeketh its own, but suffereth long and is kind. Fill us with Thy love. Make us gentle, courteous, and forbearing; for His sake Who loved us, and gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Power of Prayer

*Bible Reading 38* *Dāniel 6:*

IT pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty satraps, who should be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one; that these satraps might give account unto them, and that the king should have no damage. Then this Daniel was distinguished above the presidents and the satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find occasion against Daniel as touching the kingdom; but they could find no occasion nor fault, forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. Then these presidents and satraps assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the deputies and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a strong interdict, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any god or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the interdict.

And when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house (now his windows were open in his chamber toward Jerusalem); and he kneeled

upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. * * *

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. *Now* the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting; neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep fled from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. And when he came near unto the den to Daniel, he cried with a lamentable voice; the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. My God hast sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me; forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. Then was the king exceeding glad, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he had trusted in his God.

## Prayer

*Daniel A. Poling*

FATHER of us all, we thank Thee for the record of courageous men who in times past were unafraid when vast dangers threatened them. We thank Thee for an ancient faith that closed the mouths of lions and changed the purposes of a misguided king. We thank Thee for fidelity to truth that opened its window toward Jerusalem in spite of the promise of death, and that by so doing, opened the heart of a heathen empire to Jerusalem's God. And, our Father, we thank Thee that in Daniel's triumphs there is a message of

inspiration for to-day. Grant unto us the courage of the unspoiled Hebrew whom threats could not deter; grant unto us his quiet and unblustering fortitude, his far-eyed vision and his overwhelming faith. And as he was sufficient for his time, because his trust was in Thee, may we be adequate for "Such a time as this," because Thou art the Author and Finisher of our salvation.

In the name and for the sake of Thy Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# The Annunciation

*Bible Reading 39* *Luke 1:*

NOW in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord *is* with thee. But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this might be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. And Mary said unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: wherefore also the holy thing which is begotten shall be called the Son of God. And behold, Elisabeth thy kinswoman, she also hath conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her that was called barren. For no word from God shall be void of power. And Mary said, Behold, the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

And Mary arose in these days and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judah; and entered

into the house of Zacharias and saluted Elisabeth. And it came to pass, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit; and she lifted up her voice with a loud cry, and said, Blessed *art* thou among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come unto me? For behold, when the voice of thy salutation came into mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed *is* she that believed; for there shall be a fulfilment of the things which have been spoken to her from the Lord. * * * And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned unto her house.

## Prayer

*Robert Watson*

ALMIGHTY God, Thou art supreme in our thought and affection. We draw near to Thee reverently yet boldly. We have an Advocate with Thee, even Jesus Christ. We thank Thee that He ever liveth to make intercession for us, that Thou art mindful of us and holdest our lives precious. We thank Thee for the Angel's message, for the gospel, new every morning and sung afresh every evening. We are often "greatly troubled" by Thy revelations. The coming of Christ startles and amazes us; Thy goodness doth embarrass us and Thy loving kindness overwhelm us and Thy promises force us to cry: "How shall this be?" Be merciful and patient with us and lead on softly until we understand what Thou art doing for us; then we will rejoice more than when corn and wine abound. Continue to teach us that all things are possible with Thee and that all things may become possible unto us. Revive us continuously by Thy Spirit and may Christ live in us and be reproduced in us. Deliver us from sin and let grace abound. Enable us to live, to serve, and to do everything according to Thy word, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

# The Birth of Jesus

*Bible Reading 40* *Matthew 1: Luke 2:*

NOW the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But when he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins. Now all this is come to pass, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying,

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son,
And they shall call his name Immanuel;

which is, being interpreted, God with us. And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took unto him his wife, and knew her not till she had brought forth a son: and he called his name JESUS.

Now it came to pass in those days, there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrolment made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to enrol themselves, every one to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and

family of David; to enrol himself with Mary, who was betrothed to him, being great with child. And it came to pass, while they were there, the days were fulfilled that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son; and she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds in the same country abiding in the field, and keeping watch by night over their flock. And an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this *is* the sign unto you: Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased.

And it came to pass, when the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing that is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they saw it, they made known concerning the saying which was spoken to them about this child. And all that heard it wondered at the things which were spoken unto them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these sayings, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken unto them.

## Prayer

*Wallace Radcliffe*

THOU Son of Mary, we worship Thee as Son of God! Thou Babe of Bethlehem, we love Thee as Jesus who shall save Thy people from their sins! Open our eyes that we may see the Angel of Thy Presence. Open our ears that we may hear the Good Tidings of Great Joy. Open our lips that we may sing the song of peace and good-will. Open our hearts that we may welcome Thy Presence within us. Make our lives Thy Bethlehem. Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us unto God by Thy blood. Make us each a Christ-child that God may be made manifest in our flesh, and our lives become a word of God to our fellows. Glorify us with the consciousness of Thy Spirit that as of old our common work may shine with the beauty of Thy Holiness and be vocal with Thy praise. Thou art not ashamed to call us brethren. We know not what we shall be, but like Thyself would grow in stature and in favor with God and man.

We look up to Thee as the child looks up to the Elder Brother. Lead us, protect us, comfort us, and deliver us at last into the joy of that multitude of the heavenly host who see Thee, and serve and praise eternally. For Thy Name's sake. Amen.

# Jesus in the Temple

*Bible Reading 41* *Luke 2:*

AND when eight days were fulfilled for circumcising him, his name was called JESUS, which was so called by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were fulfilled, they brought him up to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord), and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, that they might do concerning him after the custom of the law, then he received him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord,
According to thy word, in peace;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples;
A light for revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of thy people Israel.

And his father and his mother were marvelling at the things which were spoken concerning him; and Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother,

Behold, this *child* is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel; and for a sign which is spoken against; yea and a sword shall pierce through thine own soul; that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed. * * * And when they had accomplished all things that were according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

And the child grew, and waxed strong, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

And his parents went every year to Jerusalem at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up after the custom of the feast; and when they had fulfilled the days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and his parents knew it not; but supposing him to be in the company, they went a day's journey; and they sought for him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance: and when they found him not, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking for him. And it came to pass, after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both hearing them, and asking them questions: and all that heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

And when they saw him, they were astonished; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? knew ye not that I must be in my Father's house? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and he was subject unto them: and his mother kept all *these* sayings in her heart.

And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

## Prayer

*George Matheson*

SON of God, Thou art never so royal to me as at the Manger, never so Kingly as in the Temple, never so regal as in Thy Sacrifice. Thy deepest miracle is in Thy mission—"Ever about Thy Father's Business." Thou hast aspired to be the Lamb of God—the spotless soul, without a stain.

My heart needs Thee, O Lord, my heart needs Thee! No part of my being needs Thee like my heart. All else within me can be filled by Thy gifts. My hunger can be satisfied by daily bread. My thirst can be allayed by earthly waters. My cold can be removed by household fires. My weariness can be relieved by outward rest. But no outward thing can make my heart pure. The calmest day will not calm my passions. The fairest scene will not beautify my soul. The richest music will not make harmony within. The breezes can cleanse the air, but no breeze can cleanse a spirit.

This world has not provided for my heart. Provide Thou for my heart, O Lord. Be Thou the strength of my heart. Be Thou its fortress in temptation, its shield in remorse, its covert in the storm, its star in the night, its voice in the solitude. Guide it in its gloom; help it in its hope; direct it in its doubt; calm it in its conflict, and bring it at last to the Eternal Home, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Baptism and Temptation

*Bible Reading 42* *Matthew 3:4:*

THEN cometh Jesus from Galilee to the Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John would have hindered him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? But Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffereth him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway from the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon him; and lo, a voice out of the heavens, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he afterward hungered. And the tempter came and said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him into the holy city; and he set him on the pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou art the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written,

He shall give his angels charge concerning thee:

and,

On their hands they shall bear thee up,
Lest haply thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Jesus said unto him, Again it is written, Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God. Again, the devil

taketh him unto an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and he said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him; and behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

## Prayer

*George E. Hunt*

O THOU, our Father, Who leadest us through the kindly discipline of daily toil and pain, prepare our hearts for the supreme moment of testing that comes to us all—as it came to Jesus our Master. When we are tempted as He was to use our power for selfish ends, to use our place for posing or making a brave show in the flesh, or to acquire power for ourselves by using the easy and brutish methods of the flesh; then, O God, may we see Jesus in the wilderness—and follow Him even though that path lead to suffering and the Cross.

O, Thou God of Truth and Love, may we know full well the eternal difference between Jesus' way and the devil's way—between the straight plain path of spiritual clean living, and the dull unthinking drift of the world—between spiritual reality and the illusions of the flesh. May we live in the freedom of God's truth and the joy of God's love—and let the power of goodness keep us calm when the world clamors for the brutal way of force.

In these days of dependence upon the arm of the flesh, help us to nobly trust the Power of the Spirit. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

# The Transfiguration

*Bible Reading 43* *Luke 9:*

AND it came to pass about eight days after these sayings, that he took with him Peter and John and James, and went up into the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment *became* white *and* dazzling. And behold, there talked with him two men, who were Moses and Elijah; who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: but when they were fully awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him. And it came to pass, as they were parting from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah: not knowing what he said. And while he said these things, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my Son, my chosen: hear ye him. And when the voice came, Jesus was found alone. And they held their peace, and told no man in those days any of the things which they had seen.

## Prayer

*James G. K. McClure*

EVER Blessed God, we rejoice that Thou hast power within Thyself so to transfigure the seemingly human, and to so illumine Jesus that, clad in His everyday raiment as He was, He was manifested as the transcendently beautiful, the eternally glorious.

We thank Thee that Jesus thus was seen as He is, the very image of thine own adorable self, the Chosen One of Thy grace, through the hearing and obedience of whose words the souls of all mankind find the way of everlasting life.

We earnestly pray that in this present time, Jesus shall be so revealed to every human heart that all people shall be led to seek fellowship with Him. To that end, grant that before our minds every feature of the will of Jesus may be so transfigured that common duties shall be haloed with brightness, and even routine and drudgery shall glisten with the very reflection of heaven. And if the opportunity for serving Thy needy earth in its darkness of sin and weakness lies far down from the heights of exalted experiences, still wherever we are may there always be in our hearts the courage and the confidence of the heavenly light which shone upon the Mount of Transfiguration of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

# The Triumphal Entry

*Bible Reading 44* *Matthew 21:*

AND when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and came unto Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying unto them, Go into the village that is over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose *them,* and bring *them* unto me. And if any one say aught unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them. Now this is come to pass, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying,

Tell ye the daughter of Zion,
Behold, thy King cometh unto thee,
Meek, and riding upon an ass,
And upon a colt the foal of an ass.

And the disciples went, and did even as Jesus appointed them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their garments; and he sat thereon. And the most part of the multitude spread their garments in the way; and others cut branches from the trees, and spread them in the way. And the multitudes that went before him, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed *is* he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, Who is this? And the multitudes said, This is the prophet, Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.

## Prayer

*William H. Poole*

ALMIGHTY God, whose Blessed Son, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem in the manner foretold by the prophets, and was hailed as the Messiah by those wno afterwards cried "Crucify Him!" mercifully deliver us from the sin of disloyalty. As our Master chose unswerving allegiance to the truth as it was revealed to him by the light within him, even though His choice involved the Cross, so may we face difficulties and death rather than desert the best we know. Help us to be the friends of our fellow men in the dark days of adversity, as well as in the times of prosperity. If they fail to realize our ambitions, grant to us the grace of patience and the gift of tolerance. Enable us to forgive our enemies and persecutors and transform them into friends. Bind us all together as loyal citizens of our country, and of the world, that we may do our part in the establishment and preservation of the Kingdom of Righteousness in which we may all dwell together in unity and peace.

All which we ask through Him who dies to defend the highest, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# The Last Supper

*Bible Reading 45* *Matthew 26:*

NOW on the first *day* of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, Where wilt thou that we make ready for thee to eat the passover? And he said, Go into the city to such a man, and say unto him, The Teacher saith, My time is at hand; I keep the passover at thy house with my disciples. And the disciples did as Jesus appointed them; and they made ready the passover.

Now when even was come, he was sitting at meat with the twelve disciples; and as they were eating, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began to say unto him every one, Is it I, Lord? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth, even as it is written of him: but woe unto that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had not been born. And Judas, who betrayed him, answered and said, Is it I, Rabbi? He saith unto him, Thou hast said.

And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it; and he gave to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took a cup, and gave thanks, and gave to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many unto remission of sins. But I say unto you, I shall not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

## Prayer

*A. B. Meldrum*

OUR Father, we pray for the honest heart and the candid mind. Save us from every form of self-deceit. As we dip our hands into the dish with Thee forbid that our souls should be filled with vanity and sin. Search us, O God, and know our hearts, try us and know our thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

O Thou, who didst so love us, help us to be ever loyal to Thee. In Thy blessed service may we find our truest joy. By Thy Spirit reveal unto us more and more the glory of Thy sacrifice, so that the love therein revealed may constrain us to give ourselves in grateful devotion to the work of lightening the burdens and comforting the hearts of those who are weary and heavy laden. May our lives be so fully consecrated to Thee that every task we discharge shall be an act of worship, and every meal of which we partake shall be as a Holy Sacrament.

Make us brave, patient and hopeful. Be Thou our Guide in every perplexing path of life; our light and our salvation in every season of trial and darkness, until at length, by Thy grace, we reach the Land of Everlasting Morning.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

# Gethsemane

*Bible Reading 46* *Matthew 26:*

THEN cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto his disciples, Sit ye here, while I go yonder and pray. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and sore troubled. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death: abide ye here, and watch with me. And he went forward a little, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. Again a second time he went away, and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cannot pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And he left them again, and went away, and prayed a third time, saying again the same words. Then cometh he to the disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Arise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that betrayeth me.

## Prayer

*George Brewer*

LORD, with reverent hearts, through prayer, we would enter into the deeper meaning of Gethsemane. We see the Man of Sorrows in the solitude of the moon-

lit garden, praying in agony and tears that the bitter cup may be removed. We know that the bitterness of betrayal, treachery, desertion, mockery, rejection and death upon the cross were in that cup, but help us to realize the deeper bitterness. In coming to this earth as the Incarnate Son of God, Thou hast so identified Thyself with us as to share our struggles, feel our sorrows, and bear our sins, and in going to the cross, Thy death was not only the cure for sin, but also the judgment upon sinners. Therefore, we see Thee in Thy holy, sinless, solitary agony in the garden—suffering spiritual crucifixion before the physical death on Calvary—drinking that bitter cup of sin's sacrifice and sin's judgment to the dregs. In solemn gratitude we thank Thee for Gethsemane, with its struggle, prayer, victory and peace. And now, having been with Thee, in the garden, forbid that we should desert Thee in the testing and purifying sorrows and struggles of life. May the memories of this bitter hour draw us away from all disloyalties and sins, and give us the victory, through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

# The Betrayal

*Bible Reading 47* *Matthew 26:*

AND while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that is he: take him. And straightway he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Rabbi; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, *do* that for which thou art come. Then they came and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. And behold, one of them that were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and smote the servant of the high priest, and struck off his ear. Then saith Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into its place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Or thinkest thou that I cannot beseech my Father, and he shall even now send me more than twelve legions of angels? How then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? In that hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a robber with swords and staves to seize me? I sat daily in the temple teaching, and ye took me not. But all this is come to pass, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples left him, and fled.

## Prayer

*J. Wilbur Chapman*

O LORD, our God, we tremble as we come before Thee, when we realize that it is possible for one who has followed Thee, and been beneath the sway of

Thine influence, to barter Thee for silver and to betray Thee with a kiss.

The influence of the world is so distracting; the temptations of Sâtan are so insidious; the so-called pleasures of the world are so deceptive; the pitfalls on every hand are so many and are so carefully hidden, that we feel the need of Thy help as never before.

Lord, keep us in Thy love. Without Thee we shall fail. Make us conscious of Thy presence when the Adversary confronts us. Teach us how to wield the sword of the Spirit of which he is so much afraid. Make Thy promises to be our comfort when we find ourselves in sudden need.

May Jesus Christ, our Lord, be real to us and very near; then shall we be more than conquerors.

Forgive us for the times when we almost betrayed Thee, when but for Heaven's help we might have sold our Lord for less than thirty pieces of silver.

We ask it in the name of Him who is our Savior, Keeper, Friend and ever-living Lord. Amen.

# The Trial

*Bible Reading 48* *Matthew 26:27:*

AND they that had taken Jesus led him away to *the house of* Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. But Peter followed him afar off, unto the court of the high priest, and entered in, and sat with the officers, to see the end. Now the chief priests and the whole council sought false witness against Jesus, that they might put him to death; and they found it not, though many false witnesses came. But afterward came two, and said, This man said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest stood up, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou art the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Henceforth ye shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his garments, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy: what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? They answered and said, He is worthy of death. Then did they spit in his face and buffet him: and some smote him with the palms of their hands, saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ: who is he that struck thee?

Now when morning was come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: and they bound him, and led him away, and delivered him up to Pilate the governor.

Now Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then saith Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he gave him no answer, not even to one word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly. Now at the feast the governor was wont to release unto the multitude one prisoner, whom they would. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. When therefore they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ? For he knew that for envy they had delivered him up. And while he was sitting on the judgment-seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that righteous man; for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. But the governor answered and said unto them, Which of the two will ye that I release unto you? And they said, Barabbas. Pilate saith unto them, What then shall I do unto Jesus who is called Christ? They all say, Let him be crucified. And he said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out exceedingly, saying, Let him be crucified. So when Pilate saw that he prevailed nothing, but rather that a tumult was arising, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man; see ye *to it.* And all the people answered and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children. Then released he unto them Barabbas; but Jesus he scourged and delivered to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Prætorium, and gathered unto him the whole band. And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. And they platted a crown of thorns and put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they kneeled

down before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! And they spat upon him, and took the reed and smote him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they took off from him the robe, and put on him his garments, and led him away to crucify him.

## Prayer

*Charles Wood*

O THOU who wert in the beginning with God, and without whom was not anything made that was made, we thank Thee that Thou didst empty Thyself of Thy glory, and though Thou wert rich, yet for our sakes Thou didst become poor! We bless Thee that Thou didst not turn aside from any human experience, temptation or trial. Thou wert tempted in all points like as we are. Thou, the Son of God, didst stand as a prisoner before cruel and heartless men, waiting in silent patience for them to pass sentence on Thee before whose throne of judgment nations at last are to be brought. May Thy mind be on us. May humility like Thine always have full play and be glorified in us, our hearts and lives. May we never be humiliated or shamed by any position into which duty has led us. May we have no fear of kings, governors or mighty men, for Thou wilt stand by our side, and may we have no fear of death for Thou didst conquer this last enemy of mankind for Thyself and for us. Amen.

# The Crucifixion

*Bible Reading 49* *Matthew 27:*

AND as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; him they compelled to go with them, that he might bear his cross.

And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, The place of a skull, they gave him wine to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted it, he would not drink. And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments among them, casting lots; and they sat and watched him there. And they set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then are there crucified with him two robbers, one on the right hand and one on the left. And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself: if thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross. In like manner also the chief priests mocking *him,* with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. He is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe on him. He trusteth on God; let him deliver him now, if he desireth him: for he said, I am the Son of God. And the robbers also that were crucified with him cast upon him the same reproach.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? And some of them that stood there, when they heard it, said, This man called Elijah. And straightway one of them ran, and took a

sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. And the rest said, Let be; let us see whether Elijah cometh to save him. And Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit. And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake; and the rocks were rent; and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints that had fallen asleep were raised; and coming forth out of the tombs after his resurrection they entered into the holy city and appeared unto many. Now the centurion, and they that were with him watching Jesus, when they saw the earthquake, and the things that were done, feared exceedingly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God. And many women were there beholding from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

## Prayer

*Charles C. Albertson*

ALMIGHTY God, Who hast given us a Savior in Jesus Christ; we give Thee hearty thanks for His life in all its stages; for its beautiful infancy, its reverent childhood, its dedicated youth, its years of labor and of love, and for that glorified Passion which crowned the whole. Give us grace so to follow His good example that in all things we may please Thee who hast called us to glory and honor and immortality. As Thou didst call Thy Son, our Savior, to pass through death that so He might give life to the world; so do Thou help us daily to die unto sin that we may live unto righteousness. Give us patience in the hour of pain and trial. Make every agony of flesh and spirit a sacrament unto our souls. Cause us to be more than conquerors through Him that loved us; for His Name's sake. Amen.

# The Burial and Resurrection

*Bible Reading 50* *Matthew 27:28:*

AND when even was come, there came a rich man from Arimathæa, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple; this man went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded it to be given up. And Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb, and departed. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.

Now on the morrow, which is *the day* after the Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees were gathered together unto Pilate, saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while he was yet alive, After three days I rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest haply his disciples come and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: and the last error will be worse than the first. Pilate said unto them, Ye have a guard: go, make it *as* sure as ye can. So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, the guard being with them.

Now late on the sabbath day, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was as lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the watchers did quake, and became as

dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who hath been crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, even as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples, He is risen from the dead; and lo, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring his disciples word. And behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then saith Jesus unto them, Fear not: go tell my brethren that they depart into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

Now while they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city, and told unto the chief priests all the things that were come to pass. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave much money unto the soldiers, saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and rid you of care. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying was spread abroad among the Jews, *and continueth* until this day.

## Prayer

*Robert G. Ramsay*

WE praise Thee, O God, for the hope of resurrection through Jesus Christ, Thy Son. Assure our hearts by His victory over the grave. May we have firm faith in our redemption through Him. Let us know the joy of those to whom the angel said, "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said."

May we be comforted also, O Lord, by the thought and hope of reunion in the day of resurrection. By Thy power Thou wilt glorify this dust and cause the spirit again to inhabit it. Once more we shall fellowship with those whom we have "loved and lost awhile."

May we be patient and active in Thy service till the day eternal breaks and the shadows forever flee away. Let the hope of heaven sustain us while we bear earth's burdens and in the hour of adversity may we remember that Thou wilt one day wipe away all tears from our eyes. So let us be calm and confident when the shadows deepen, and may Thy Presence deliver us from all fear.

Graciously hear this our prayer for ourselves and those dear to us, for the sake of Thy Son, our Savior. Amen.

# Christ's Reappearance

*Bible Reading 51* *John 24: Luke 20:*

AND behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was threescore furlongs from Jerusalem. And they communed with each other of all these things which had happened. And it came to pass, while they communed and questioned together, that Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know him. And he said unto them, What communications are these that ye have one with another, as ye walk? And they stood still, looking sad. And one of them, named Cleopas, answering said unto him, Dost thou alone sojourn in Jerusalem and not know the things which are come to pass there in these days? And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we hoped that it was he who should redeem Israel. Yea and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things came to pass. Moreover certain women of our company amazed us, having been early at the tomb; and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. And certain of them that were with us went to the tomb, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Behooved it not the Christ to

suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they were going: and he made as though he would go further. And they constrained him, saying, Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is now far spent. And he went in to abide with them. And it came to pass, when he had sat down with them to meat, he took the bread and blessed; and breaking *it* he gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Was not our heart burning within us, while he spake to us in the way, while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up that very hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and they that were with them, saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon. And they rehearsed the things *that happened* in the way, and how he was known of them in the breaking of the bread.

When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first *day* of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. And when he had said this, he showed unto them his hands and his side. The disciples therefore were glad, when they saw the Lord. Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit: whose soever sins ye forgive, they are forgiven unto them; whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of

the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and see my hands; and reach *hither* thy hand, and put it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus said unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

## Prayer

*George R. Dickinson*

FATHER in Heaven, we thank Thee that He whom Thou didst send to be our Savior, is the same yesterday, to-day and forever; that in all His human and divine sympathy He is living, and is with us always.

We thank Thee that Thou hast not withdrawn the disclosure of Thyself in Christ, that Thou art not far off, and that we do not walk alone.

Open Thou our eyes by the touch and anointing of Thy Spirit that we may see the presence of the risen Lord by our side in all our journeyings,—as we walk and talk by the wayside, as we face our problems and difficulties in sunshine or in shadow, as we sit in the home at the common meal, as we perform our ordinary tasks, as we go on some errand of sympathy or of service.

We would fain see Him whom, not having seen with the natural eye, we love. We would hear Him speak the word of peace. We would have our hearts burn again in His presence and our faith confirmed anew in Him as our Divine Lord.

Speak to us, Lord, and send us forth to witness and to serve in the sense of Thy living and loving fellowship and power.

For Thy Name's sake we ask it. Amen.

# Reappearance and Ascension

*Bible Reading 52* *John 21: Matthew 28: Luke 24:*

AFTER these things Jesus manifested himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and he manifested *himself* on this wise. There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the *sons* of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also come with thee. They went forth, and entered into the boat; and that night they took nothing. But when day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach: yet the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus therefore saith unto them, Children, have ye aught to eat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. * * * Jesus saith unto them, Come *and* break your fast. And none of the disciples durst inquire of him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus cometh, and taketh the bread, and giveth them, and the fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.

But the eleven disciples went into Galilee, unto the mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped *him*; but some doubted. And Jesus came to them and spake unto them, saying, All authority hath been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teach-

ing them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. Ye are witnesses of these things. And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high.

And he led them out until *they were* over against Bethany: and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: and were continually in the temple, blessing God.

## Prayer

*Paul R. Hickok*

ALMIGHTY God, our loving Father, we worship Thee, and with thanksgiving we acknowledge that it is in Thee we live and move and have our being. We remember the care in which Thou dost keep all Thy children, the mercies new every morning and fresh every evening. Help us then, O God, to turn away from all sin, and to have our words, our thoughts, and our outward acts acceptable in Thy sight. Keep us near unto Thee in daily walk and purpose, with the same mind in us which was also in Christ Jesus.

Make Thyself known unto us, O God, in the experiences of every day. Reveal Thyself in tenderness and sympathy, as Christ revealed Himself to His disciples.

Give to us the vision of opportunity and service which in His reappearance He gave to them. Make us know that we, like them, are daily to go forth with His authority, to manifest His life and spirit, to let the light of His character shine forth in us for the glory of God the Father, and to lead men to observe all things whatsoever Christ commanded. And to Thee, O God, shall be all the praise and honor forever. Amen.

# Sermon on the Mount

*Bible Reading 53* *Matthew 5:*

AND seeing the multitudes, he went up into the mountain: and when he had sat down, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth and taught them, saying,

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called sons of God.

Blessed are they that have been persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are ye when *men* shall reproach you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets that were before you.

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do *men* light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house.

Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

## Prayer

*Edgar W. Work*

O ΠOHL Great Teacher of the multitudes and of all who look to Thee, teach us the truth of divine goodness, the wondrous joys of repentance, the rich rewards of obedience, the deep satisfaction of the companionship of Jesus, and all the marvelous inspirations of thy glorious word.

Teach us the courage of unrewarded toil—the nobility of speech and the splendor of silence, the gladness of humble service done in love, and all the masterful uplift of that fine music of the heart that sings amidst the shadows.

Teach us the patience of unanswered prayer, the strength of discipline, the sacred stillness of life's problems, the softened meaning of life's shadows, and all the high reaches of life's far-reaching and flaming hopes.

Teach us the value of love and the warm joys of a dedicated hearthstone: the revelation of life in the heart of a child, the message of truth in the heart of a friend, and all the endless inspiration to service in the heart of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Worldly Anxiety

*Bible Reading 54* *Matthew 6:*

LAY not up for yourselves treasures upon the earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be also. The lamp of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is the darkness! No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Be not anxious for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than the food, and the body than the raiment? Behold the birds of the heaven, that they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; and your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are not ye of much more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit unto the measure of his life? And why are ye anxious concerning raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God doth so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, *shall he* not much more *clothe* you, O ye of little faith? Be not therefore anxious, saying, What shall

we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Be not therefore anxious for the morrow: for the morrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

## Prayer

*Benjamin B. Warfiield.*

MOST Gracious Father, we lift up our hearts unto Thee, from Whom alone comes our strength. Help us to trust Thee so wholly that we trust Thee in the dark. Thy mercies are fresh every morning and renewed to us every night. Help us to praise Thee for Thy goodness and to rest in Thy love. Thou knowest what we have need of before we ask Thee. Grant us all that Thou seest we need. Save us from suffering and want, from sickness and misery, from doubt and perplexity, from temptation and sin. Teach us that Thou carest for us, and that nothing can harm us or separate us from Thy love. Relieve us from anxiety and fear, that our minds may be at leisure from themselves to soothe and sympathize. Make us useful in the world in which Thou hast placed us, and zealous in service for Thee. Forgive us our sins; give us Thy Spirit to dwell within us, and grant us the joy of conscious communion with Thee. Conform us ever more closely to Thine image as Thou hast revealed it to us in Jesus Christ; lead us in the paths of holiness; and take us at last to dwell forever in Thy presence, the recipients of Thy favor and love. We ask in the Name of Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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# Bearing Our Cross

*Bible Reading 55* *Matthew 10:*

A DISCIPLE is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household? Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known. What I tell you in the darkness, speak ye in the light; and what ye hear in the ear, proclaim upon the housetops. And be not afraid of them that kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? and not one of them shall fall on the ground without your Father: but the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Think not that I came to send peace on the earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law: and a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that doth not take his cross and follow after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall

lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward: and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you he shall in no wise lose his reward.

## Prayer

*Laughlin M. Watt*

O GOD, whose love makes every morning sweet and fair, and every evening full of new hopes and dreams, we thank Thee for the fresh opportunities which Thou hast given us.

We thank Thee that Thou hast given us grace to be patient with life's worries and sufferings, for the daily task, keeping us brave enough to face what irks us oftentimes. We dare not meet the darkness or the day unless Thy love be with us; and sleeping and waking would alike be full of pain and fear, but for Thy pity which moves beside us as we go about our business, and watches near us till the morning's dawn.

Sweet is Thy love, O Father. It takes away the bitterness from every cup of duty, and we see, through it, sunlight, where we thought that all was dark, and far stretching ways where all seemed trackless waste.

Deepen our lives, that we may understand more clearly what we are, and learn more clearly what we may yet become. We ask not gain from godliness; but grant us the treasure of golden deeds, and words of shining worth, wherewith to help the suffering and the poor, and guide the weary into calm.

Remember all from whose life the light has faded, through sorrow, sickness, sin or shame, or by death's passing. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

# The Church Established

*Bible Reading 56* *Matthew 16:*

NOW when Jesus came into the parts of Cæsarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of man is? And they said, Some *say* John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven. And I also say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he the disciples that they should tell no man that he was the Christ.

From that time began Jesus to show unto his disciples, that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised up. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall never be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art a stumbling-block unto me: for thou mindest not the things of God, but the things of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever would save his

life shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he render unto every man according to his deeds.

## Prayer

*Walter Rauschenbusch*

O GOD, we pray for Thy Church, which is set to-day amid the perplexities of a changing order, and face to face with a great new task.

When we compare her with other human institutions we rejoice, for there is none like her. But when we judge her by the mind of her Master, we bow in pity and contrition.

Baptize her afresh in the life-giving Spirit of Jesus.

Grant her a new birth though it be the travail of repentance and humiliation.

Bestow upon her a readier responsiveness to duty, a swifter compassion with suffering, and an utter loyalty to the will of God.

Help her to proclaim boldly the coming of the Kingdom and the doom of all who resist it.

Fill her with the prophet's scorn at tyranny and with a Christ-like tenderness for the heavy laden.

Give her faith to espouse the cause of the people, and in their hands that grope after freedom and light to recognize the bleeding hands of the Christ. Bid her cease from seeking her own life lest she lose it.

Make her valiant to give up her life to humanity, that like her crucified Lord she may mount by the path of the cross to a higher glory, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

# True Greatness

*Bible Reading 57* *Matthew 18:*

IN that hour came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And he called to him a little child, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye turn, and become as little children, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me: but whoso shall cause one of these little ones that believe on me to stumble, it is profitable for him that a great millstone should be hanged about his neck, and *that* he should be sunk in the depth of the sea.

Woe unto the world because of occasions of stumbling! for it must needs be that the occasions come; but woe to that man through whom the occasion cometh! And if thy hand or thy foot causeth thee to stumble, cut it off, and cast it from thee: it is good for thee to enter into life maimed or halt, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into the eternal fire. And if thine eye causeth thee to stumble, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is good for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into the hell of fire. See that ye despise not one of these little ones: for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven. How think ye? if any man have a hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and go unto the mountains, and seek that which goeth astray?

And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth over it more than over the ninety and nine which have not gone astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

## Prayer

*William Carter*

OUR Father and our Father's God, help us we pray Thee to appreciate our inheritance as Thy children so that we may never sell our birthright for the pottage of this world's pomp and show. Grant, O our Father, that each of us may remember that it is only as we keep young in faith and love that we can claim that inheritance and grow truly great within Thy Kingdom. May we always cherish a teachable spirit, a childlike trust and confidence in Thee. May we also cherish childlike innocence and purity of heart that we may see Thy face and, cutting ourselves off from all impurity in word, and thought, and deed, live as Thy children ought to live before the world.

Help us also, our dear Father, to cherish our own children, within our homes and within our church, as Thou dost cherish us and may we realize that in molding and fashioning them we are molding and fashioning angels who shall at last behold Thy face. And, righteous God, may we at last, through Thy dear grace, enter into that blessed inheritance with them, as Thou hast promised, and find that through childlike faith, and trust, and love, we have grown great indeed. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Great Judgment

*Bible Reading 58* *Matthew 25:*

BUT when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, *even* these least, ye did it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not

minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me. And these shall go away into eternal punishment: but the righteous into eternal life.

## Prayer

*Mark Allison Matthews*

O GOD, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we come to Thee to express our gratitude for what Thou hast done for us, for the privileges Thou hast afforded us, for the commissions Thou hast given us, the fields Thou hast opened to us, for the work Thou hast assigned us, and for the promise that Thou wilt accompany us and remain with us to the end of each succeeding period.

We implore Thee to indue us with power, give us wisdom and direct us in every step and effort. Increase our faith and courage. Give us supernatural strength. Protect us, direct us, and use us.

We are Thine, wholly Thine, and we would serve Thee exclusively, obey Thee absolutely and die for Thee. But if it is Thy will, make us fit to live for Thee, make us competent, efficient and successful, not for our sakes but for Thy sake, and the sake of those to whom Thou sendest us.

Holy Spirit, grant these requests for Christ's sake. Amen.

# Parable of the Talents

*Bible Reading 59* *Matthew 25:*

FOR *it is* as *when* a man, going into another country, called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his several ability; and he went on his journey. Straightway he that received the five talents went and traded with them, and made other five talents. In like manner he also that *received* the two gained other two. But he that received the one went away and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. Now after a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and maketh a reckoning with them. And he that received the five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: lo, I have gained other five talents. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And he also that *received* the two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: lo, I have gained other two talents. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. And he also that had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou didst not sow, and gathering where thou didst not scatter; and I was afraid, and went away and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, thou hast thine own. But his lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not,

and gather where I did not scatter; thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the bankers, and at my coming I should have received back mine own with interest. Take ye away therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him that hath the ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken away. And cast ye out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness: there shall be the weeping and the gnashing of teeth.

## Prayer

*James Martineau*

O GOD, who hast commanded that no man should be idle, give us grace to employ all our talents and faculties in the service appointed for us; that, whatsoever our hand findest to do, we may do it with our might. Cheerfully may we go in the road which Thou hast marked out, not desiring too earnestly that it should be either more smooth or more wide; but, daily seeking one way in Thy light, may we trust ourselves and the issue of our journey to Thee, the Fountain of joy, and sing songs of praise as we go along.

No morning stars that sing together can have deeper call than we for grateful joy. Thou hast given us a life of high vocation, and Thine own breathing in our hearts interprets for us its sacred opportunities. Thou hast cheered the way with many dear affections and glimpses of solemn beauty and everlasting truth. Not a cloud of sorrow, but Thou hast touched with glory; not a dusty atmosphere of care, but Thy light shines through! And, lest our spirits fail before Thine unattainable perfections, Thou hast set us in the train of Thy saints who have learned to take up the cross of sacrifice. May we also take up our cross daily and follow Thee. Amen.

# The Sower and the Soil

*Bible Reading 60* *Mark 4:*

AND again he began to teach by the sea side. And there is gathered unto him a very great multitude, so that he entered into a boat, and sat in the sea; and all the multitude were by the sea on the land. And he taught them many things in parables, and said unto them in his teaching, Hearken: Behold, the sower went forth to sow: and it came to pass, as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the way side, and the birds came and devoured it. And other fell on the rocky *ground,* where it had not much earth; and straightway it sprang up, because it had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And other fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And others fell into the good ground, and yielded fruit, growing up and increasing; and brought forth, thirtyfold, and sixtyfold, and a hundredfold. And he said, Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parables. And he said unto them, Unto you is given the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest haply they should turn again, and it should be forgiven them. And he saith unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how shall ye know all the parables? The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; and when they have heard, straightway cometh Satan, and taketh away the word which hath been sown in

them. And these in like manner are they that are sown upon the rocky *places,* who, when they have heard the word, straightway receive it with joy; and they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, straightway they stumble. And others are they that are sown among the thorns; these are they that have heard the word, and the cares of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And those are they that were sown upon the good ground; such as hear the word, and accept it, and bear fruit, thirtyfold, and sixtyfold, and a hundredfold.

## Prayer

*C. Waldo Cherry*

OH, Thou God of light and truth, deliver us from moral blindness and spiritual unreceptiveness. When Thou dost speak to us, whether it be in Thy temple or in the market place or in the place of lonely devotion, grant that our lives may not be so choked with worldly cares and interests, so hardened by selfishness, so petrified by sin, that Thy word shall have no lodgment in our hearts and no response in our wills. May Thy spirit accompany us and instruct us in all our devotions, so that day by day we may gain a richer knowledge of the things which eye hath not seen or ear heard, nor hath entered into the heart of man. Grant that every seed of truth which Thou dost sow in our hearts may bring forth fruit in conduct and in character. Dost Thy word point us to a cross, help us to bear it; to any service for others, make us swift to render it; to any sin we have cherished, help us to dethrone it; to any height ungained, help us to ascend it. So help us to receive Thy word of truth and to bring forth the fruit of the spirit in all love and joy and peace and righteousness.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Feeding the Multitude

*Bible Reading 61* *Mark 6:*

AND the apostles gather themselves together unto Jesus; and they told him all things, whatsoever they had done, and whatsoever they had taught. And he saith unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while. For there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desert place apart. And *the people* saw them going, and many knew *them,* and they ran together there on foot from all the cities, and outwent them. And he came forth and saw a great multitude, and he had compassion on them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things. And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, The place is desert, and the day is now far spent; send them away, that they may go into the country and villages round about, and buy themselves somewhat to eat. But he answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred shillings' worth of bread, and give them to eat? And he saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go *and* see. And when they knew, they say, Five, and two fishes. And he commanded them that all should sit down by companies upon the green grass. And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. And he took the five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake the loaves; and he gave to the disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. And they all ate, and were filled. And they took up broken pieces, twelve basketfuls, and

also of the fishes. And they that ate the loaves were five thousand men.

## Prayer

*William D. Edson*

HEAVENLY Father, help us to draw near in worship. To come in the spirit of "hallowed be Thy Name." Help us to call upon our souls and all that is within us to bless Thy Holy Name.

Help us that we may not be vexed when our plans are interrupted, but that we may rather be expecting that those events which have intervened and brought us disappointment have within them some compassionate mercy—some better good—which, had we not been disappointed, we might have missed. Help us to daily walk before Thee in a spirit of humble contentment. Break Thou the bread of life to us, as Thou, O Christ, didst break the bread beside the sea, and help us to partake abundantly of that broken heavenly bread which has power to satisfy our needy souls through the ministry of the children, and make us more willing to follow Thy plan of personal service, that we may become better co-workers with Thee in Thy Kingdom.

Help us to do the little things of life just as faithfully as we would gladly do the larger things.

In Jesus' Name we ask it all. Amen.

# The Good Samaritan

*Bible Reading 62* *Luke 10:*

AND behold, a certain lawyer stood up and made trial of him, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And he said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right; this do, and thou shalt live. But he, desiring to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbor? Jesus made answer and said, A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance a certain priest was going down that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And in like manner a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion, and came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on *them* oil and wine; and he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow he took out two shillings, and gave them to the host, and said, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, I, when I come back again, will repay thee. Which of these three, thinkest thou, proved neighbor unto him that fell among the robbers? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. And Jesus said unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

## Prayer

*Campbell Coyle*

ALMIGHTY God, it is our desire to come to Thee with humility and reverence, and do Thou help us to this end. Our need of Thee is very great, and the way is dark and lonely when we miss Thy presence. Our satisfaction is in Thee alone, for we find only barrenness and desolation apart from Thee. The way is rough and shadowed, and many dangers lurk in secret hiding places to rush upon us as we travel on. Be Thou our Guide, and our Protector, and anoint our many hurts with the oil and wine of Thy sympathy and love, and with Thy hand of tenderness, wipe away our tears. Strengthen us when we are weak, carry us when we are tired, and for our hungry and thirsty hearts provide the food and drink we need; shelter us against the darkness and the storms, and make Thy breast our pillow when we sleep. No matter how dark the night give us eyes of faith to see the morning on the hills, and when we come to the end of the way meet us with the welcome word, and the victor's crown. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Deceit of Riches

*Bible Reading 63* *Luke 12:16:*

NOW there was a certain rich man, and he was clothed in purple and fine linen, faring sumptuously every day: and a certain beggar named Lazarus was laid at his gate, full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the *crumbs* that fell from the rich man's table; yea, even the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and that he was carried away by the angels into Abraham's bosom: and the rich man also died, and was buried. And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things: but now here he is comforted, and thou art in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, that they that would pass from hence to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from thence to us. And he said, I pray thee, therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house; for I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. But Abraham saith, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one go to them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, if one rise from the dead. * * *

And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he reasoned within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have not where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry. But God said unto him, Thou foolish one, this night is thy soul required of thee; and the things which thou hast prepared, whose shall they be? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

## Prayer

*A Veteran Pastor*

ALMIGHTY God, our Father: God of men and nations. Lord of heaven and earth: We rejoice in our heritage, bought for us by the agony of Gethsemane and Calvary: planned for us in Thine eternal thought and boundless love; wrought for us by Thy Spirit and Thy Providence through long ages, and the toils and struggles of countless generations. We take our liberty, our prosperity, our enlightenment, our domestic and social happiness, as merely a small though vital part of Thy glorious redemption through Jesus Christ.

Cure us, we pray Thee, of our besotted narrowness, and our crippling dislocations. Uproot our prejudices. Weed out our dislikes. Wash away our unclean displeasure with those who differ from us. Make our hearts too Christly to hold a grudge or cherish resentment. Make us generous. Purge away graft from our policies, greed from our commerce, vice from our recreations, lawlessness from our habits, and complicity with sin from our statutes. Give us a religion pure and undefiled for everyday living, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Lost Son

*Bible Reading 64* *Luke 15:*

AND he said, A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of *thy* substance that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together and took his journey into a far country; and there he wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that country; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. But when he came to himself he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But while he was yet afar off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight: I am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring the fatted calf, *and* kill it, and let us eat, and make merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

## Prayer

*Book of Worship*

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, Who didst humble Thyself to become man, and to be born into the world for our salvation, teach us the grace of humility. Root out of our hearts all pride and haughtiness, and so fashion us after Thy holy image in this world that in the world to come we may walk in Thy likeness. To this end, graciously remove the sin that daily alienates us from Thy fellowship and which so constantly destroys our peace. Help us to destroy every form of idolatry that lingers in our hearts; the love of money, the longing for applause, the craving for ease, the quest of pleasure. Impart unto us the grace of devotion, that so we may worship Thee with unwavering homage and in perfect loyalty and obedience. Wilt Thou draw us into an intimacy of communion such as we have never had before. Leave us not in the far country where in our trespasses we may have wandered and become lost. Make us a way home and bring us into the realm of holiness and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# True Prayer

*Bible Reading 65* *Luke 11:18:*

AND he spake also this parable unto certain who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and set all others at nought: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week; I give tithes of all that I get. But the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast, saying, God, be thou merciful to me a sinner. I say unto you, This man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be humbled; but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. * * *

And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say to him, Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine is come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him; and he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee? I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will arise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. And of which of you that

is a father shall his son ask a loaf, and he give him a stone? or a fish, and he for a fish give him a serpent? Or *if* he shall ask an egg, will he give him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

## Prayer

*Charles R. Erdman*

OUR loving heavenly Father, Who hast called us into filial fellowship with thyself through Jesus Christ our Lord, we praise Thee for the priceless privilege of prayer, and for the confidence that whatsoever we ask of Thee we shall receive. We thank Thee that Thy Son has taught us and that Thy Spirit helps us to pray, and that Thou art ever doing for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Forgive us for our lack of faith, for our unbelief and fears, and for our doubting the reality of prayer because we are baffled by its mysteries. Show us how to cast all our care upon Thee, to be anxious in nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication to let our requests be known unto Thee that Thy peace which passeth all understanding may guard our hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus. As we pray for ourselves make us mindful of others and teach us the blessedness of the ministry of intercession, that we may be more like unto Him who ever lives to make intercession for us.

Hear us for His sake and in His blessed name. Amen.

# The Incarnation

*Bible Reading 66* *John 1:*

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness; and the darkness apprehended it not. There came a man, sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but *came* that he might bear witness of the light. There was the true light, *even the light* which lighteth every man, coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he the right to become children of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth. John beareth witness of him, and crieth, saying, This was he of whom I said, He that cometh after me is become before me: for he was before me. For of his fulness we all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him.*

## Prayer

*George F. Pentecost*

OUR Gracious God and Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast not left us in ignorance of Thyself; and of Thy purpose of grace toward us; that Thou hast spoken to us in the olden times by holy men who were moved to speak by the Holy Spirit; and especially in this later time by Thy dear Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. That having seen and heard Him, we have seen and heard Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast spoken to us in the terms of our own nature as man to man, for Thou, dear God, didst make Thyself a man that we men might know Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast preserved to us in Thy written word all that Thou hast said to us; and that, day by day, we may "walk with Thee and talk with Thee"; especially that Thou mayest talk with us; that we may come thus to know the thoughts that Thou hast toward us,—thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give us an unexpected end. Grant us open eyes to read and open ears to hear Thy word; and a ready love and will to do Thy word, for only Thou can we love. Teach us how to read and how to do Thy word as did Ezra of old who prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. And this we ask in His name, who has bidden to ask largely in His name. Amen.

# The Twice Born

*Bible Reading 67* *John 3:*

NOW there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: the same came unto him by night, and said to him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born anew. The wind bloweth where it will, and thou hearest the voice thereof, but knowest not whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou the teacher of Israel, and understandest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I told you earthly things and ye believe not, how shall ye believe if I tell you heavenly things? And no one hath ascended into heaven, but he that descended out of heaven, *even* the Son of man, who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth may in him have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life.

## Prayer

*Charles N. Pace*

WE thank Thee, O Christ, that we can come to Thee by night as well as by day. Often it is the night of sorrow, or loss, or perplexity which reveals to us our need of Thee. Thou dost welcome us at any hour. How hospitable Thou art! May we appreciate and use Thy offer of helpfulness.

There are some things we do not understand, but there is much that is perfectly plain. May no sense of mystery about the Christian life defeat our allegiance to it. With unshaken faith in Thy love, and goodness, and truth, and power, may we steadily go forward in obedience to Thy will, "believing where we cannot prove," content to know that the experience is always greater than the explanation of it, and rejoicing in the fact that "if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away and all things become new." As each day the light awakens the world into renewed activity, and as each year the fields are freshened by the Spring, so may we this day and this year have new life from Thee, Thou Day-Spring of our hearts. Amen.

# The Good Shepherd

*Bible Reading 68* *John 10:*

VERILY, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. When he hath put forth all his own, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.

Jesus therefore said unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture. The thief cometh not, but that he may steal, and kill, and destroy: I came that they may have life, and may have *it* abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep. He that is a hireling, and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, beholdeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth, and the wolf snatcheth them, and scattereth *them*: *he fleeth* because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; and I know mine own, and mine own know me, even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold:

them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd.

## Prayer

*James R. Johnston*

OUR dear Savior, we adore Thee, we worship Thee, we love Thee, we praise Thee, we thank Thee, for the unspeakable love that brought Thee into the world to die for our sins. We come with all our weakness and unworthiness and commit ourselves, with all of our interests for time and eternity, into Thy hands. Accept us in tender mercy—forgive all Thou seest amiss in us. Remove from us all that may hinder Thy blessing. Grant us Thy constant favor. And with us bless all for whom we should pray, and save us all in Thy Kingdom; and Thine be the praise.

"Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever." Amen.

# The Light of the World

*Bible Reading 69* *John 8:*

[AND they went every man unto his own house: but Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and the Pharisees bring a woman taken in adultery; and having set her in the midst, they say unto him, Teacher, this woman hath been taken in adultery, in the very act. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such: what then sayest thou of her? And this they said, trying him, that they might have *whereof* to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground. But when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground. And they, when they heard it, went out one by one, beginning from the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the midst. And Jesus lifted up himself, and said unto her, Woman, where are they? did no man condemn thee? And she said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said, Neither do I condemn thee: go thy way; from henceforth sin no more.]

Again therefore Jesus spake unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life.

## Prayer

*Howard Agnew Johnston*

FOR Thy light in our darkness we bring Thee thankful hearts, O God. Help us to realize that Thou art light and in Thee is no darkness at all. Give us to see that when we face the light, the shadows fall behind us; but when we turn from the light, we walk in our own shadows. Help us to let in all the light and to let the light all the way in, until Christ, the Light of the World, is King in the very throne room of our souls. Then in His light our sins will become startlingly plain, until we shall run back into His loving arms to be cleansed again and anointed again, becoming truly children of light. Thus we shall glorify Thee in Him, who taught us when we pray to say:

"Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever." Amen.

# True Worship

*Bible Reading 70* *John 4:*

WHEN therefore the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples), he left Judæa, and departed again into Galilee. And he must needs pass through Samaria. So he cometh to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph: and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. For his disciples were gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman therefore saith unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, who am a Samaritan woman? (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his sons, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Every one that drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up unto eternal life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come all the way hither

to draw. Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband and come hither. The woman answered and said unto him, I have no husband. Jesus saith unto her, Thou saidst well, I have no husband: for thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: this hast thou said truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father. Ye worship that which ye know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh (he that is called Christ): when he is come, he will declare unto us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.

## Prayer

*J. H. Jowett*

HOLY Father, we thank Thee for the privilege of fellowship, and for the help which we can give one another as we seek the holy place. May our faith be strengthened, our penitence deepened, and our joys be enriched because we are contemplating the unsearchable riches of Christ. Impart unto us the grace of sacred sympathy. May we reverently bear one another's burdens and carry them in the arms of intercession. We beseech Thee to grant unto us visions of Thy glory in so far as our eyes are able to bear them. May we make new discoveries among the mysteries of Thy truth. May the hour of worship prepare us for a larger ministry in the service of Thy Kingdom. Wilt Thou give us the armor we need for the great cam-

paign. Especially may we receive the endowment of the love that never grows faint. Reveal to us our work, and then lead us into a devotion which will never be satisfied until the work is finished. Look upon the whole world in this hour of desolation and woe. Enlarge our hearts to comprehend the sorrow, and may we share the sufferings of our Lord in sacrificial labors.

Let Thy Kingdom come, O Lord, and let Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

# Raising of Lazarus

*Bible Reading 71* *John 11:*

NOW a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, of the village of Mary, and her sister Martha. And it was that Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. The sisters therefore sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. But when Jesus heard it, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thereby. * * *

So when Jesus came, he found that he had been in the tomb four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off; and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary still sat in the house. Martha therefore said unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. And even now I know that, whatsoever thou shalt ask of God, God will give thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I have believed that thou art the Christ the Son of God, *even* he that cometh into the world. And when she had said this, she went away, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Teacher is here, and calleth thee. And she, when she heard it, arose quickly, and went unto him.

(Now Jesus was not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met him.) The Jews then who were with her in the house, and were consoling her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up quickly and went out, followed her, supposing that she was going unto the tomb to weep there. Mary therefore, when she came where Jesus was, and saw him, fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews *also* weeping who came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, Where have ye laid him? They say unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. The Jews therefore said, Behold how he loved him! But some of them said, Could not this man, who opened the eyes of him that was blind, have caused that this man also should not die? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus saith, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time the body decayeth; for he hath been *dead* four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou believedst, thou shouldest see the glory of God? So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou heardest me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the multitude that standeth around I said it, that they may believe that thou didst send me. And when he had thus spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. He that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave-clothes; and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Many therefore of the Jews, who came to Mary and beheld that which he did, believed on him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees, and told them the things which Jesus had done.

## Prayer

*George Matheson*

SON of Man, I understand Thy tears in the graveyard of Bethany. Men have asked the reason of Thy weeping—weeping for one Thou wert about to raise! But it was not for Lazarus, nor yet, methinks, for death. It was for the false view men had formed of death. It was because the world could think so meanly of Thy Father as to believe that He could extinguish in an hour a life to which He had given the powers of eternity. It is written of Thee that Thou didst enter the graveyard of Bethany breathing indignation. Often it seemed to me a strange sentiment for a cemetery. But I understand it now. I understand both the indignation, and the weeping, for these two were one. Men were impeaching the honor of Thy Father, for having given man a soul, and then laid him in the dust. Thou wert jealous for Thy Father's glory; I appreciate the swellings of Thy heart, I appreciate the moisture of Thine eye! Thy tears were the showers of Thy compassion for our dead hope, for our dim sight, for our buried faith, for our forgetfulness of the glory of the Father. And the shower of sorrow was a shower of blessing.

O Son of Man, in the hour of my life's despair, ever let such drops descend on me! For Jesus' sake. Amen.

# Life Through Death

*Bible Reading 72* *John 12:*

NOW there were certain Greeks among those that went up to worship at the feast: these therefore came to Philip, who was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and asked him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: Andrew cometh, and Philip, and they tell Jesus. And Jesus answereth them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a grain of wheat fall into the earth and die, it abideth by itself alone; but if it die, it beareth much fruit. He that loveth his life loseth it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will the Father honor. Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. There came therefore a voice out of heaven, *saying,* I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The multitude therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it had thundered: others said, An angel hath spoken to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice hath not come for my sake, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself. But this he said, signifying by what manner of death he should die. The multitude therefore answered him, We have heard out of the law that the Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? who is this Son

of man? Jesus therefore said unto them, Yet a little while is the light among you. Walk while ye have the light, that darkness overtake you not: and he that walketh in the darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have the light, believe on the light, that ye may become sons of light.

## Prayer

*George Brewer*

HEAVENLY Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast brought us into the close and loving relationship of children by accepting the life, teachings, and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Savior: That Thou hast completed Thy work of redemption by raising Christ from the grave—bringing life and immortality to us through Him.

Believing in the Risen Christ, may we be lifted out of our sorrows, self-indulgences and sins, into that abundant life which is life indeed.

Lord, help us in these stirring days of sacrifice and service, to learn how to find life, by losing it: how to sacrifice for a holy conviction: how to suffer for a righteous cause: how to gain patience through difficulty, courage through peril: and how to become Christ-like through the silent heroisms of the home, the hallowed discipline of the sick-chamber, and the blessed drudgery of daily toil. Keep us in such close fellowship with Thee that we shall be able to glorify Thee in the humblest task, and to so live and serve here, that we may enjoy the abundant reward and eternal Life, hereafter.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

# The Promised Comforter

*Bible Reading 73* *John 14:*

LET not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. And whither I go, ye know the way. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; how know we the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye would have known my Father also: from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and dost thou not know me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; how sayest thou, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I say unto you I speak not from myself: but the Father abiding in me doeth his works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, that will I do. If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be

with you for ever, *even* the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive; for it beholdeth him not, neither knoweth him: ye know him; for he abideth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you desolate: I come unto you. Yet a little while, and the world beholdeth me no more; but ye behold me: because I live, ye shall live also. * * *

These things have I spoken unto you, while *yet* abiding with you. But the Comforter, *even* the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be fearful.

## Prayer

*Samuel S. Palmer*

GRACIOUS Father, we thank Thee for Thy comfort. Thou alone canst speak peace to the troubled. Give confidence in Thee, the assurance that Thou wilt never leave us or forsake us.

We are humbled as memory recalls our undeserved mercies. We cannot count our blessings for they are more than can be numbered.

We pray that our hearts may be drawn to Thee and bound to Thee by remembering all Thy gifts so richly and graciously bestowed. Forgive us, O God, our many sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. May we see Christ and Him crucified and rejoice that we belong among the redeemed.

We pray Thee for this great world in which we live. Thou hast told us to preach the good news to every creature. Quicken our hearts to tell the story. Strengthen our faith as we see victories. Remember, we pray Thee, any who are in sorrow. Be with those who are in perplexity or doubt or weary with cares. If any are called to pass through dark places, wilt Thou be to them the light.

We commend to Thee our country and all who are in authority. We pray that the whole earth may soon be filled with Thy glory, when men shall know each other and love each other. In our own lives may we reflect Jesus Christ who loved us and gave himself for us.

We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

# The Vine and the Branches

*Bible Reading 74* *John 15:*

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh it away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he cleanseth it, that it may bear more fruit. Already ye are clean because of the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; so neither can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same beareth much fruit: for apart from me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; and *so* shall ye be my disciples. Even as the Father hath loved me, I also have loved you: abide ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may be in you, and *that* your joy may be made full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known unto you. Ye did not choose me, but I

chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should abide: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

## Prayer

*George N. Luccock*

O LORD, our Strength and our Redeemer, by whose word we are clean, and by whose life we are made strong and useful, we beseech Thee to keep us abiding in Thee. Forgive our sins, and guard us from trying to do without Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast called us friends, and hast chosen us for Thyself and appointed us to bring forth fruit.

Grant us Thy Spirit that we may be Thy faithful witnesses and bear much fruit and so glorify the Father and show ourselves Thy disciples. Fulfil in us Thy joy—the joy of seeing what lies beyond the cross, the joy of service and winning others. Teach us to love one another, as Thou hast loved us, and give us grace to keep Thy commandments that we may be kept in Thy love. Let love so rule in our hearts that we shall have no fear of the world's hatred. O, Master, let it be enough for us to be treated like Thee, as it is our glory to be like Thee.

We ask for Thine own name's sake. Amen.

# The Holy Spirit Promised

*Bible Reading 75* *John 16:*

THESE things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be caused to stumble. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you shall think that he offereth service unto God. And these things will they do, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I spoken unto you, that when their hour is come, ye may remember them, how that I told you. And these things I said not unto you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go unto him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have spoken these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send him unto you. And he, when he is come, will convict the world in respect of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and ye behold me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world hath been judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but what things soever he shall hear *these* shall he speak: and he shall declare unto you the things that are to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare *it* unto you. All things whatsoever the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he taketh of mine, and shall declare *it* unto you.

## Prayer

*John A. Marquis*

EVER righteous and ever merciful Father! Help us to know Thee. We stumble and stagger through our days, falling into sin, hesitating in doubt, and trembling in fear because we have not known Thee nor Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent. Open our eyes that we may see, and seeing believe and follow. Help us to understand the loss we suffer when we live without the Christ who took His Disciples to His heart that great night in the Upper Chamber, when He lifted them out of their perplexity and sorrow and let them see Heaven and Thee.

We need Thee, O Thou Son of God, to stay and steady us in the world-confusion and horror through which we walk. Convince the world more and more of its sin, of Thy righteousness and of the sure judgment to come. Draw us close to Thy side and teach us to be still and to trust. It was expedient that Thou shouldst go from our earthly sight in order to be present forever to the soul, our souls. We crave Thy companionship in every event and every experience of our lives. Keep us from going where Thou canst not, and teach us always that the path of safety is the path of Christ.

In His name. Amen.

# The Farewell Prayer

*Bible Reading 76* *John 17:*

THESE things spake Jesus; and lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that the Son may glorify thee: even as thou gavest him authority over all flesh, that to all whom thou hast given him, he should give eternal life. And this is life eternal, that they should know thee the only true God, and him whom thou didst send, *even* Jesus Christ. I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do. And now, Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I manifested thy name unto the men whom thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them to me; and they have kept thy word. Now they know that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are from thee: for the words which thou gavest me I have given unto them; and they received *them,* and knew of a truth that I came forth from thee, and they believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for those whom thou hast given me; for they are thine: and all things that are mine are thine, and thine are mine: and I am glorified in them. And I am no more in the world, and these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we *are.* While I was with them, I kept them in thy name which thou hast given me: and I guarded them, and not one of them perished, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have

my joy made full in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them from the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil *one*. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth. As thou didst send me into the world, even so sent I them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. Neither for these only do I pray, but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me. And the glory which thou hast given me I have given unto them; that they may be one, even as we *are* one; I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one; that the world may know that thou didst send me, and lovedst them, even as thou lovedst me. Father, I desire that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world knew thee not, but I knew thee; and these knew that thou didst send me; and I made known unto them thy name, and will make it known; that the love wherewith thou lovedst me may be in them, and I in them.

## Prayer

*Hugh T. Kerr*

O LORD, our God, we pray that we may acknowledge Thee in all our ways. It is our deepest desire to acknowledge Thee and to be drawn nearer and nearer to Thee in all faith and service.

By the remembrance of our past failures and all our former weaknesses teach us to turn to Thee.

By the recollection of the victories we have gained

when we have trusted Thee fully, help us to confide in Thee more completely.

By the knowledge we have in Jesus, of His life of ministry, of His death on Calvary, of His grace and His Easter glory, draw us, we pray Thee, nearer and nearer to Thyself. When sin allures, when doubt troubles, when anxiety oppresses, may we find security in Thee. We are weak but Thou art mighty. We are unfaithful, but Thou art the unchanging One. We are troubled on every side, but in Thy presence there is perfect peace. We come to Thee and we would abide in Thee our Everlasting Refuge and our Home. Amen.

# The Coming of the Holy Spirit

*Bible Reading 77* *Acts 1:2:*

THE former treatise I made, O Theophilus, concerning all that Jesus began both to do and to teach, until the day in which he was received up, after that he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit unto the apostles whom he had chosen: to whom he also showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing unto them by the space of forty days, and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God: and, being assembled together with them, he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, *said he*, ye heard from me: for John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days hence.

They therefore, when they were come together, asked him, saying, Lord, dost thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know times or seasons, which the Father hath set within his own authority. But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa and Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had said these things, as they were looking, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they were looking stedfastly into heaven as he went, behold two men stood by them in white apparel; who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye looking into heaven? this Jesus, who was received up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye beheld him going into heaven.

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is nigh unto Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey off. * * *

And when the day of Pentecost was now come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire; and it sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## Prayer

*W. E. Biederwolf*

MOST merciful and mighty God, our Father in Heaven, we remember how that Jesus said, "I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth." And Thou hast fulfilled the promise of Thy Blessed Son and through Thy grace we have been made temples of God, because the Spirit of God dwelleth in us.

And now, O Holy Spirit of God, touch with Thy quickening power these feeble spirits of ours; purify our desires and animate our wills and bring us to that experience of soul where we shall be conscious not only of Thy glorious indwelling but of Thine even more glorious infilling. Without Thee in all Thy fulness we cannot attain. So strengthen us with Thy might in the inner man to do the will of God, working in us that which is well pleasing in His sight and causing our achievements in things divine to be more commensurate with the ideals which Thou dost inspire within us.

Guide us into all knowledge, as it is in Jesus Christ, O Thou Spirit of Truth, for Thou dost search all things, yea, the deep things of God. Illumine that which is dark within us, raise up that which is low and debased, cast out all that is unworthy and give us a spirit like Thine own. We ask this all in the name of Jesus Christ who loved us and gave Himself for us. Amen.

# Paul's Conversion

*Bible Reading 78* *Acts 9:*

BUT Saul, yet breathing threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, and asked of him letters to Damascus unto the synagogues, that if he found any that were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, it came to pass that he drew nigh unto Damascus: and suddenly there shone round about him a light out of heaven: and he fell upon the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And he *said*, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: but rise, and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men that journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but beholding no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing; and they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and did neither eat nor drink.

Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said unto him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord. And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one named Saul, a man of Tarsus: for behold, he prayeth; and he hath seen a man named Ananias coming in, and laying his hands on him, that he might receive his sight. * * * And Ananias departed, and entered into the house; and laying his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even* Jesus, who appeared unto thee in the way which thou camest, hath

sent me, that thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And straightway there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and he arose and was baptized; and he took food and was strengthened.

And he was certain days with the disciples that were at Damascus. And straightway in the synagogues he proclaimed Jesus, that he is the Son of God. And all that heard him were amazed, and said, Is not this he that in Jerusalem made havoc of them that called on this name? and he had come hither for this intent, that he might bring them bound before the chief priests. But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews that dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is the Christ.

## Prayer

*Edgar W. Work*

O GOD our Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Him who has met us on the way of life bringing salvation from Thee. We bless Thee for every temporal good, for fresh mercies every day, for life and love, and opportunity and privilege, and for ten thousand loving kindnesses more. But more than all we praise Thee for the great boon of salvation through Thy Blessed Son our Lord. When we were strangers to the Word of Thy grace, Thou didst not forget us. When we were prodigals even, wandering afar and careless of the Father's House, Thou didst call us graciously through the ministries of Thy Spirit, and lead us to turn again home.

We thank Thee for the precious companionship of Him whose pierced hands and wounded side tell us how deeply He entered into life for us. We thank Thee for sins forgiven, for the falling of scales from our eyes, for a new and wonderful freedom in the soul, for hopes that spring eternal in the breast.

Teach us, O God, daily to walk and work as those who have been redeemed. Tell us what we must do for Thee, O Christ, who hast done all things for us. Let us never forget Thy Cross! Amen.

# Paul at Athens

*Bible Reading 79* *Acts 17:*

NOW while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he beheld the city full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with them that met him. * * * And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, and said,

Ye men of Athens, in all things I perceive that ye are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, To AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain even of your own poets have said,

For we are also his offspring.

Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man. The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which

he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, We will hear thee concerning this yet again. Thus Paul went out from among them. But certain men clave unto him, and believed.

## Prayer

*John E. Milholland*

O GOD of Light, Who, in Thy omnipotent power drove away the darkness of primeval chaos, be pleased to let the Sun of Righteousness so illumine our dark hearts that we shall go forth to the duties of life in the joy of faith, the gladness of obedience, and with a clear vision of truth and duty.

O God of Liberty, Who has bestowed upon us, that sublime yet awful heritage, the freedom of the will, help us to realize the responsibility which it involves. Perfect us in the practice of self-denial, until we learn to know from experience that to be Thy bond servant is to enjoy the only perfect freedom which the soul of man can ever know.

O God of Love, Who hast loved us with an everlasting love, help us to reflect Thy love more and more, and show our constantly increasing affection by more loyal devotion, faithful service, and complete obedience.

O God of Life, Who has promised here and hereafter life yet more abundantly to all who truly seek it, help us to strive for that deeper, fuller experience which comes only through Thee. Help us to live a nobler, purer, more devoted life than ever before, to the glory of Thy name, Thou God of Light, Liberty, Love and Life. Amen.

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# Reconciled to God

*Bible Reading 80* *Romans 5:*

BEING therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; through whom also we have had our access by faith into this grace wherein we stand; and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we also rejoice in our tribulations: knowing that tribulation worketh stedfastness; and stedfastness, approvedness; and approvedness, hope: and hope putteth not to shame; because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us. For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man some one would even dare to die. But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath *of God* through him. For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, shall we be saved by his life; and not only so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Therefore, as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned:—for until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the likeness of Adam's transgression, who is a figure of him that was to come. But not as the tres-

pass, so also *is* the free gift. For if by the trespass of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God, and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound unto the many. * * * But where sin abounded, grace did abound more exceedingly: that, as sin reigned in death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Prayer

*Alexander Alison, Jr.*

FATHER in Heaven, we deplore the sin of our hearts that made necessary such a demonstration of Thy love. We lament the blindness that could not see the evidence of it in every common mercy along our path. We therefore thank Thee for Love's supreme commendation, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Help us to joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

We thank Thee for Thy faith in us; may we have faith in ourselves. Enable us also to have faith in others. Being at peace with Thee, may we be at peace with ourselves, and with our environment. Be Thou our conscious environment and our inner defense, that we may be equal to any emergency, and glory even in tribulation. Help us to be clean before we are clever. Where sin abounded, may grace much more abound. Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, may we press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God. Make us influential according to our capacities, and to that end help us to see that we can never lead others any nearer to Thee than we go ourselves. We would ever recommend the Christian's Lord; help us therefore to commend the Lord's Christian. Amen.

# The Wages of Sin

*Bible Reading 81* *Romans 6:*

WHAT shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein? Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with *him* in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection; knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be done away, that so we should no longer be in bondage to sin; for he that hath died is justified from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him; knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death no more hath dominion over him. For the death that he died, he died unto sin once: but the life that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Even so reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God in Christ Jesus.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey the lusts thereof: neither present your members unto sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves unto God, as alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under law, but under grace.

What then? shall we sin, because we are not under law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that

to whom ye present yourselves *as* servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness. * * * But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto sanctification, and the end eternal life. For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Prayer

*Herbert Booth Smith*

O CHRIST, our Emancipator from the binding shackles of sin, we bless Thee for the freedom wherewith Thou hast made us free. Ours has been the baptism through death unto life, and we bless Thee for the death that means life, for crucifixion that leads to resurrection. Receive us, we beseech Thee, as we offer Thee our bodies to be used as hands, feet, lips, for Thee. Be pleased to accept our minds, that we may think Thy thoughts after Thee. Graciously keep our spirits in union with Thine, so that we may become sharers of Thy great secrets, and partakers of Thy great plan to bring the world to Thy feet.

We thank Thee for the birth of Thy dear Son into the world; for His death upon Calvary, for His resurrection-power over sin, and death, and the grave; for His Ascension, and for His constant intercession for us at the right hand of God on high.

As our Intercessor we pray that Thou wilt remember this needy world. We send our love to all mankind by way of Thy throne. Keep us this day in possession of our spirits through Thy grace, and when our earthly days are done, receive us to the endless day of heaven. We ask it in the name of Thy Dear Son, our Savior and Redeemer. Amen.

# Deliverance from Sin

*Bible Reading 82* *Romans 8:*

THERE is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the ordinance of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For the mind of the flesh is death; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace: because the mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be: and they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you, he that raised up Christ Jesus from the dead shall give life also to your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

So then, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh: for if ye live after the flesh, ye must die; but if by the Spirit ye put to death the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.

For ye received not the spirit of bondage again unto fear; but ye received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified with *him*.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward. * * * Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or anguish, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Even as it is written,

For thy sake we are killed all the day long;
We were accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Prayer

*Lewis Seymour Mudge*

OUR Father in Heaven, we humbly beseech Thee to hear us. We come pleading the merits and asking the mediation of Thy Son, Our Savior. May the righteousness of Christ be fulfilled in us that we may be obedient to His holy will. May the mind of Christ take possession of us that we may have life and peace. May the Spirit of Christ dwell in us that we may live as becometh the children of God.

Deliver us from the power and penalty and pollution of sin. Make us in all things, more than conquerors through Him that loved us. So establish us in our most holy faith that nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, Our Lord. And these things we ask in the name and for the

sake of Him who came in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, and hath made us heirs of God and joint heirs with Himself to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and which fadeth not away. Amen.

# A Living Sacrifice

*Bible Reading 83* *Romans 12:*

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service. And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

For I say, through the grace that was given me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but so to think as to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to each man a measure of faith. For even as we have many members in one body, and all the members have not the same office: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and severally members one of another. And having gifts differing according to the grace that was given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of our faith; or ministry, *let us give ourselves* to our ministry; or he that teacheth, to his teaching; or he that exhorteth, to his exhorting: he that giveth, *let him do it* with liberality; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing stedfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints;

given to hospitality. Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own conceits. Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of *God*: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord. But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Prayer

*Edward Arthur Wicher*

O GOD, our loving Father, make us to be perfect in Thy love.

From a correctness of doctrine that is without charity, from a zeal for religion that is without human affection, from a profession of love towards Thyself that is without self-sacrifice for our neighbors and our brethren, we pray Thee to deliver us, O Lord.

From all that is bitter and cynical, from all that is morose and sullen, from all that is cold and calculating, we pray Thee to deliver us, O Lord.

From the seeking of our own interests in the midst of Thy Kingdom, we pray Thee to deliver us, O Lord.

From the hypocrisy of feigning love towards Thyself, we pray Thee to deliver us, O Lord.

But as love hath been made complete, not in our love to Thee, but in the greatness of Thine to us, so we pray that we may feel the fulnes of Thy Spirit surging through us and ennobling all our powers, to the end that we may love one another as Christ Himself hath loved us. So teach us that we may bear the burdens one of another; that we may prefer one another in

honor; that we may draw near one to another in the strong and tender ministrations of consolation, charity and encouragement; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# Love the Greatest of All

*Bible Reading 84* *I. Corinthians 13:*

IF I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal. And if I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And if I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor,* and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, *and* is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil; rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never faileth: but whether *there be* prophecies, they shall be done away; whether *there be* tongues, they shall cease; whether *there be* knowledge, it shall be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when that which is perfect is come, that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I felt as a child, I thought as a child: now that I am become a man, I have put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as also I was fully known. But now abideth faith, hope, love, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

## Prayer

*Alexander MacColl*

ALMIGHTY God, our Father, best known to us by Thy great name of Love, brought very near to us in the love of Christ, our hearts are cold and our lives empty till they are filled with Thy love. Take from us everything with which Thy love cannot dwell—all selfishness of aim and narrowness of spirit; all contentment with self and impatience with others; all bitterness and all despair. We thank Thee that Thou dost love *the world;* and we pray Thee to overrule all hatreds of men and nations; and as earthly kingdoms fall, prepare the way for the Kingdom and the King. We thank Thee that Thy love, encompassing the world, pauses ever at the threshold of one man's need, and enters in to bless.

Help us to make each day beautiful, by some simple deed of love for others which we have learned at the feet of Jesus. And give us faith that love never fails, that whether our thought to-day be of the one man in his weakness and his need, or of the great world in its strife and sin, we may take our place confidently among the victors, and never cease to work, and hope, and pray.

We ask it in the name of Him whose love passeth knowledge. Amen.

# Resurrection of the Dead

*Bible Reading 85* *I. Corinthians 15:*

HOW if Christ is preached that he hath been raised from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, then is our preaching vain, your faith also is vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we witnessed of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, neither hath Christ been raised: and if Christ hath not been raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also that are fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most pitiable.

But now hath Christ been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of them that are asleep. For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; then they that are Christ's, at his coming. Then *cometh* the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have abolished all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be abolished is death. For, He put all things in subjection under his feet. But when he saith, All things are put in subjection, it is evident that he is excepted who did subject all things unto him. And when all things have been subjected unto him, then shall the Son also himself be

subjected to him that did subject all things unto him, that God may be all in all.

## Prayer

*Edgar P. Hill*

ALMIGHTY and ever blessed God, we rejoice in Thee. We would always rejoice in Thee. Thou art the source of light and life, of love and joy and peace. All that we have and are we owe to Thee, for Thou art the giver of every good thing. Especially do we praise Thee at this time for what we are and hope to be through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thine unspeakable gift of love unto us. When we were not only unlovely but unloving, He died that we might live eternally. By His stripes we are healed. By His resurrection victory we are raised into newness of life. No longer doth the fear of death disturb us. We face the future unafraid. We stand by the new made grave with eyes of hope shining through our tears, as we recall the words of our risen Savior, "Because I live ye shall live also." Our hearts steady constantly by the assurance that our Christ is seated at the right hand of Thy throne. And when we shall draw near the end of the earthly years, may we face the great change with courage and eager anticipation. Keep us to-day, to-morrow and during all the remaining years, in the way of Thy choosing. And at the last, give unto us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In His name we ask it all. Amen.

# The Manner of Resurrection

*Bible Reading 86* *I. Corinthians 15:*

BUT some one will say, How are the dead raised? and with what manner of body do they come? Thou foolish one, that which thou thyself sowest is not quickened except it die: and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not the body that shall be, but a bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other kind; but God giveth it a body even as it pleased him, and to each seed a body of its own. * * * So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. * * *

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We all shall not sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law: but thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord.

## Prayer

*Henry Ward Beecher*

HEAVENLY Father, grant that every day we may so live, thinking of the future, that death shall be the most radiant of portals, surging through which we ascend to triumph and eternal victory. May it not seem to us a sad thing to grow old. As daylight begins to dawn upon our darkness, leaving its glory there —as one sense after another indicates that Thou art preparing to take down this mortal frame—as we behold these signs and tokens of outward decay, O grant that there may be deep peace, an inward joy, and that the thought of our blessed immortality may be to us as a balm in every trouble, as light in all darkness, as encouragement under all oppressions and trials, and as a guide and an inspiration when things seem to us sapless and dead.

O risen Christ, who hast gained the eternal victory of life over death, and in whom all men are victorious, give us Thy victory over fear and bitterness. Grant us Thy victory over sorrow that in it our poor sorrows may be hidden and we be comforted. Make us to rise with Thee; and from the other world may we hear united with Thy voice the voices of those who have risen to life through Thee and who can die no more. So do Thou be our abiding comfort and eternal joy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# The Unseen and Eternal

*Bible Reading 87* *II. Corinthians 4:5:*

THEREFORE seeing we have this ministry, even as we obtained mercy, we faint not: but we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled in them that perish: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should not dawn *upon them.* For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. Seeing it is God, that said, Light shall shine out of darkness, who shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the exceeding greatness of the power may be of God, and not from ourselves; *we are* pressed on every side, yet not straitened; perplexed, yet not unto despair; pursued, yet not forsaken; smitten down, yet not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you. But having the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, I believed, and therefore did I speak; we also believe, and therefore also we speak; knowing that he that raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also with

Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that the grace, being multiplied through the many, may cause the thanksgiving to abound unto the glory of God.

Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

For we know that if the earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens.

## Prayer

*Henry Ward Beecher*

AS the days hasten, as the years are drawing nigh, when we, too, shall soon pass, give to us tokens and premonitions of our own acceptance. Grant that more and more the cords which make earth so precious may be ready to part, so that there may be nothing here to hold us when we should go, everything there to draw us when we should rise. When death comes, may we neither dread nor hate it, but with the eye of faith see its inward heart and nature. How merciful, how more balmy than sleep, how kind, how full of God's multitudinous blessings, is that providence which takes us away from the limitations of time, of sin, and of sorrow upon earth, and brings us into the presence of our God, into the exaltation of the heavenly state, where are radiant joy, and all peace and purity! This is Thy gift, O Thou atoning Jesus! O Thou who hast died for us, and in whom we live, by whom our sins are cleansed away, give us unclouded faith! O Thou who art Prince and Savior, save us now, in dying and beyond; and bring us into the infinite joy of Thy Father's kingdom, where we shall praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

World without end. Amen.

# Fruits of the Spirit

*Bible Reading 88* *Galatians 5:6:*

FOR freedom did Christ set us free: stand fast therefore, and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage. * * *

For ye, brethren, were called for freedom; only *use* not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh, but through love be servants one to another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. * * *

But I say, Walk by the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary the one to the other; that ye may not do the things that ye would. But if ye are led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*: fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envyings, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of which I forewarn you, even as I did forewarn you, that they who practise such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law. And they that are of Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with the passions and the lusts thereof.

If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk. Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a

spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. For each man shall bear his own burden.

But let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith.

## Prayer

*Arthur F. Wittenberger*

O LORD, for the glorious freedom of spirit, wrought for mankind by Jesus Christ, we thank Thee. Having been delivered from the yoke of sin, law and death, we would stand firm against a return to bondage. We would use also our freedom, not for self-satisfaction, but for service of others, thereby fulfilling the law of love.

We pray, therefore, enable us actively to walk by the spirit, that we shall in no wise perform the works of sinful flesh, against which we are warned that they who practise them shall not inherit the Kingdom. Grant us rather, since we have life by the Spirit, also the blessed fruits of the Spirit. Let love be shed abroad in our hearts. Let joy abound. Let peace fill our souls and pervade our society. Keep us patient amid trials. Teach us to exercise kindness and show beneficence toward all. Help us to keep faith with ourselves and others. Give us meekness of spirit and strong self-

control. Evermore keep us humble in mind, helpful toward the erring, hopeful of victory, as we remember the promise, that he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

# The Armor of God

*Bible Reading 89* *Ephesians 5:6:*

BE ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell.

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as becometh saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, or jesting, which are not befitting: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know of a surety, that no fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil *one*. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the

word of God: with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

## Prayer

*Book of Worship*

ALMIGHTY God, Thou art our refuge and strength, so we come to Thee in prayer. This day we have been in battle; the fire of the enemy has been unceasing, and our armor needs repairing.

We have been in the ways of rebellion, and the tempter has captured much of our will. And we have encountered difficulty and sorrow, and sometimes we have been daunted and we have turned back in fear. But now we come to Thee for the gift of health and strength. We bless Thee that Thy promises abound, even unto the weakest, and to those most out of the way. There is no distress which cannot find its balm in Thy love. There is no poison of sin which cannot be expelled by the power of Thy forgiveness. Help us to believe this, Good Lord, and by our belief to find that the miracle of grace has been worked in our own souls. Make us considerate of one another. May we find our own joy in seeking blessings for our fellows. Lift us into self-forgetfulness, and lay upon our souls the burden of the world. May we be the kinsmen of our Savior, willing to suffer in order that others may find Thy peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Humility

*Bible Reading 90* *Philippians 2:*

IF there is therefore any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassions, make full my joy, that ye be of the same mind, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; *doing* nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others. Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient *even* unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name; that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven and *things* on earth and *things* under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

So then, my beloved, even as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who worketh in you both to will and to work, for his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and questionings; that ye may become blameless and harmless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse gen-

eration, among whom ye are seen as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life.

## Prayer

*Lucian J. Fosdick*

O GOD our Father, we Thy erring children, come to Thee in all our need, our dependence, our helplessness; we have no merits of our own; we plead the merits of Thy Son our Savior. We need Thee; we need the cleansing which comes only through the sacrifice made by Him, whose name is above every name.

We need Thy presence in the person of the Holy Spirit; we need the fellowship of Him who walked with the disciples when their hearts were heavy and who dispelled their sorrow, making their hearts to glow with joy; we need Thee, O God, more than we need all things else.

Help us, O God our Father, to have the mind of Christ; the mind to do Thy will, to heed Thy voice, to obey Thy precepts; the gift to see our opportunities for service and a heart to serve.

Help us, our Father, in the hour of discouragement, the hour of trial, the hour of sorrow, to hold fast to Thee, knowing that Thou art near, that Thou wilt not leave us, and out of the comfort and consolations of Thy love to us, may we minister to the comfort and consolation of others, to the glory of Him who hath redeemed us. Amen.

# Imitation of Christ

*Bible Reading 91* *Philippians 3:4:*

HOWBEIT what things were gain to me, these have I counted loss for Christ. Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but refuse, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of mine own, *even* that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed unto his death; if by any means I may attain unto the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect: but I press on, if so be that I may lay hold on that for which also I was laid hold on by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing *I do*, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

## Prayer

*Andrew Murray*

THOU sayest: Abide in me! O my Master, my Life, my All, I do abide in Thee. Give Thou me to grow into all Thy fulness. It is not the effort of faith seeking to cling to Thee, nor even the rest of faith, trusting Thee to keep me; it is not the obedience of the will, nor the keeping the commandments; but it is Thyself living in me as in the Father, that alone can satisfy me. It is Thyself, my Lord, no longer before me and above me, but one with me, and abiding in me; it is this I need, it is this I seek. It is this I trust Thee for.

Thou sayest: Ask whatsoever ye will. Lord! I know that the life of full, deep abiding will so renew and sanctify and strengthen the will that I shall have the light and the liberty to ask great things. Lord! let my will, dead in Thy death, living in Thy life, be bold and large in its petitions.

Thou sayest: It shall be done. O Thou who art the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, give me in Thyself the joyous confidence that Thou wilt make this word yet more wonderfully true to me than ever, because it hath not entered into the heart of man to conceive what God hath prepared for them that love Him. Amen.

# The New Life

*Bible Reading 92* *Colossians 3:*

IF then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, *who is* our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory.

Put to death therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry; for which things' sake cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience: wherein ye also once walked, when ye lived in these things; but now do ye also put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, railing, shameful speaking out of your mouth: lie not one to another; seeing that ye have put off the old man with his doings, and have put on the new man, that is being renewed unto knowledge after the image of him that created him: where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bondman, freeman; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things *put on* love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in

you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## Prayer

*Russell Conwell*

O LORD! we have missed so many things in life. Thou hast filled the world with beauty and yet so small a portion of it do we see. We have missed so many friends we might have made. We have missed so many thoughts that would have been full of sublimity. We have missed so many charming scenes that would have been full of glory. We have missed so much, we have not lived. We have been sleeping through this life with only a glance here and there; only a voice here and there; only a smile here and there of all the millions one might have known and enjoyed. Lord, we appeal to Thee to awaken us: to increase our faith, our sensitiveness, our comprehension, so that in the future we shall not miss as many things as we have missed in the past.

Lord! soften our lives; sweeten our expressions, beautify all that we do, and may our deeds have the halo around them of richness, of nobility, of peace, of joy, of love, so that we may not only live but we may live beautifully, that we may live so that our lives may have something of the morning sunshine in them; that we may so live that the world, seeing us, will see that life is not only a duty clearly performed, but that it is beautifully done.

We ask all these things in Jesus Christ's name. Amen.

# The Reward of the Faithful

*Bible Reading 93* *II. Timothy 2:*

THOU therefore, my child, be strengthened in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Suffer hardship with *me*, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service entangleth himself in the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who enrolled him as a soldier. And if also a man contend in the games, he is not crowned, except he have contended lawfully. The husbandman that laboreth must be the first to partake of the fruits. Consider what I say; for the Lord shall give thee understanding in all things. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David, according to my gospel: wherein I suffer hardship unto bonds, as a malefactor; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. Faithful is the saying: For if we died with him, we shall also live with him: if we endure, we shall also reign with him: if we shall deny him, he also will deny us: if we are faithless, he abideth faithful; for he cannot deny himself.

Of these things put them in remembrance, charging *them* in the sight of the Lord, that they strive not about words, to no profit, to the subverting of them that hear. Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth. * * * Howbeit the firm foundation of God standeth, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his; and, Let every one

that nameth the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness. Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some unto honor, and some unto dishonor. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, meet for the master's use, prepared unto every good work.

## Prayer

*William W. Lawrence*

BLESSED Father, we seek a closer fellowship with Thee in whom we find our gospel. Take us to Thyself for heartening that we may glorify Thee in a better life. In Thee we live and thereby comes our obligation. Thou hast redeemed us, and therein is our confidence. By Thee we would be moved that our power might be spiritual and adequate for the emergencies and hardships of life. We crave boldness for witnessing. Teach us to draw inspiration from all common striving of men. Make the soldier a lesson in willing respondency and implicit obedience that we may please Thee. Prod us into a finer striving by even the honor of the games. Called to walk in old paths, grant us the light of Thy presence, and a memory of all who went this way. Thy grace is so unspeakable that we would dare seek for fruit while we labor. Thou hast put a singing in our hearts, for we remember Jesus Christ. Spirit of Truth, hold the Gospel before us till we know it. Help us win our generation. Work in us a faithfulness that cannot deny itself. Lift us up to Thyself that we may see over the top. Give us the far-away vision. Sanctify us in Thy truth, that we may bring, gladly, our work for Thy approval. Put upon us the tracery of holiness. Keep us for Thyself, and use us for Thy glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

# Endurance

*Bible Reading 94* *Hebrews 12:13:*

THEREFORE let us also, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that hath endured such gainsaying of sinners against himself, that ye wax not weary, fainting in your souls. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin: and ye have forgotten the exhortation which reasoneth with you as with sons,

My son, regard not lightly the chastening of the Lord,
Nor faint when thou art reproved of him;
For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,
And scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

It is for chastening that ye endure; God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is there whom *his* father chasteneth not? But if ye are without chastening, whereof all have been made partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore, we had the fathers of our flesh to chasten us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed good to them; but he for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of his holiness. All chastening seemeth for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yieldeth peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised

thereby, *even the fruit* of righteousness. Wherefore lift up the hands that hang down, and the palsied knees; and make straight paths for your feet, that that which is lame be not turned out of the way, but rather be healed.

Now the God of peace, who brought again from the dead the great shepherd of the sheep with the blood of an eternal covenant, *even* our Lord Jesus, make you perfect in every good thing to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom *be* the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## Prayer

*George Brewer*

LORD, we thank Thee for the great cloud of witnesses who have endured all things by looking unto Jesus Christ. We also look to Thee in these brief moments of devotion. May we realize Thy Spirit's presence. Banish from us all pride and self-conceit, all selfishness and sin, and so influence our hearts that all our desires and plans may be brought into harmony with Thy will. Help us in all life-experiences to remember Jesus Christ. When our hearts are growing cold and indifferent, and we are living as if life had no spiritual reality, make Thy life very real to us. When the evil memories of the past trouble us, and we mourn over early dreams and hopes departed, make real Thy forgiving promises. When we are tempted to sin—sin clothed in allurements which make it seem less sinful,—may we remember Thee, "tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin." When the joys and successes come, save us from growing narrow with these absorbing interests, and when we face the difficulties, the disappointments, and the sorrows of life, fill us with conquering hope, and abiding peace, and enable us to endure as seeing Him who is invisible.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

# Temptation

*Bible Reading 95* *James 1:*

COUNT it all joy, my brethren, when ye fall into manifold temptations; knowing that the proving of your faith worketh patience. And let patience have *its* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, lacking in nothing.

But if any of you lacketh wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing doubting: for he that doubteth is like the surge of the sea driven by the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord; a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.

But let the brother of low degree glory in his high estate: and the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun ariseth with the scorching wind, and withereth the grass; and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his goings.

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he hath been approved, he shall receive the crown of life, which *the Lord* promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempteth no man: but each man is tempted, when he is drawn away by his own lust, and enticed. Then the lust, when it hath conceived, beareth sin: and the sin, when it is full-grown, bringeth forth death. Be not deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom can be no varia-

tion, neither shadow that is cast by turning. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first-fruits of his creatures.

Ye know *this*, my beloved brethren. But let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But he that looketh into the perfect law, the *law* of liberty, and *so* continueth, being not a hearer that forgetteth but a doer that worketh, this man shall be blessed in his doing. If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

## Prayer

*J. R. Miller*

FATHER, teach us the lesson of victory. We yield too easily to things that try us. We are too easily disheartened. We do not trust Thee enough when the way is hard. Help us to enter into the victory of Jesus Christ, who overcame the world, and in whom we, too, can overcome the world. Save us from discouragement which so often leads to doubt and to the loss of joy and hope. Let us not be discouraged of others. Help us wherever we go to carry gladness, cheer, inspiration, and hope, so that all who meet us will be stronger and braver for the meeting.

We thank Thee for the precious promises Thou hast given us in Thy word. They suit every possible need of

our lives. We never can have an experience for which we may not find some word of Thine, assuring us of help. Thy promises are sure and eternal. Help us to believe them implicitly and to trust them absolutely. Forgive us our doubts and fears when we have not had full confidence in Thy word, and help us from this day forward to believe everything Thou dost promise us. Then shall we sing even in the darkness. We ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

# Governing the Tongue

*Bible Reading 96* *James 3:*

BE not many *of you* teachers, my brethren, knowing that we shall receive heavier judgment. For in many things we all stumble. If any stumbleth not in word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also. Now if we put the horses' bridles into their mouths that they may obey us, we turn about their whole body also. Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by rough winds, are yet turned about by a very small rudder, whither the impulse of the steersman willeth. So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire! And the tongue is a fire: the world of iniquity among our members is the tongue, which defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheel of nature, and is set on fire by hell. For every kind of beasts and birds, of creeping things and things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed by mankind: but the tongue can no man tame, *it is* a restless evil, *it is* full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we the Lord and Father; and therewith curse we men, who are made after the likeness of God: out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth the fountain send forth from the same opening sweet *water* and bitter? can a fig tree, my brethren, yield olives, or a vine figs? neither *can* salt water yield sweet.

Who is wise and understanding among you? let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom is not *a wisdom* that cometh down from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without variance, without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for them that make peace.

## Prayer

*A Veteran Pastor*

FATHER in heaven, show us how to be wrapt up in Thee—by becoming absorbed in serving and enjoying people whom Thou sendest across our path. We would find Thee everywhere, but especially in folks in whom Thou dost dwell, or art to dwell, perhaps by means of our kindness to them. Teach us to hate sin, especially our own sin, and to love everything else, and to love everybody. Cure us of disparaging our fellows, of dulness or indifferences toward the humblest or the meanest; and beget within us the fixed habit of appreciating people, of seeing all the latent or possible good in them, and of loving them into righteous living. Scorch the thorns from off our tongues, and blast out all bitterness from our hearts. So distil Thy love within us, so occupy every corner of our being, that there shall be no room left for dislikes, grudges, antipathies, or suspicions. Thus mold society also in Thy likeness. Dismiss its enmities. Abate its collisions. Cure its greed, its selfishness, its schisms, its wanton devotion to mere display; and work Thy righteousness into us and into the entire life of the people.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

# The Sinner's Advocate

*Bible Reading 97* *I. John 2:*

MY little children, these things write I unto you that ye may not sin. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world. And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoso keepeth his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him: he that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.

Beloved, no new commandment write I unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning: the old commandment is the word which ye heard. Again, a new commandment write I unto you, which thing is true in him and in you; because the darkness is passing away, and the true light already shineth. He that saith he is in the light and hateth his brother, is in the darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is no occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in the darkness, and walketh in the darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because the darkness hath blinded his eyes.

I write unto you, *my* little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. I write unto you, fathers, because ye know him who is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the evil one. I have written unto you, little children, because ye know the Father. I have written unto you, fathers, because ye know him who is from the beginning. I have written unto you,

young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the evil one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

## Prayer

*John Timothy Stone*

OUR loving Father, we thank Thee that we may bow before Thee as little children and, if not fully conscious of our own weakness and frailty, we thank Thee that we are instinctively conscious of Thy great strength and of the warmth of Thy loving heart, and of the willingness of Thy love to protect and help.

Simplify, we pray Thee, our faith; save us from all the curses of pride and self-esteem; shield us from being over-influenced by the suggestions or opinions of our friends; and give to us that loving confidence in Thee which will take us from the love of the world.

We thank Thee, our Lord and Savior, that Thou didst overcome the evil one when he tempted Thee; give to us the same power of falling back upon Thy word, and quoting and believing Scripture, when he misquotes and disbelieves.

Save us from the philosophies of the world, which mystify our faith instead of clearing it, and which introduce false and strange suggestions instead of the simple assurances of love, and faith, and hope. May this mind be in us which was in Christ Jesus. Help us to know that "the world passeth away and the lust thereof," but that he that doeth Thy will abideth forever! and in the daily routine of our lives, may we keep our eyes fast and our purpose firm, upon the great loving principles of Thyself, established and sure, that we may ever know the love of God and do it. We ask it in Christ's name. Amen.

# Children of God

*Bible Reading 98* *I. John 3:*

BEHOLD what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and *such* we are. For this cause the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we children of God, and it is not yet made manifest what we shall be. We know that, if he shall be manifested, we shall be like him; for we shall see him even as he is. And every one that hath this hope *set* on him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Every one that doeth sin doeth also lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. And ye know that he was manifested to take away sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither knoweth him. *My* little children, let no man lead you astray: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous: he that doeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. To this end was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is begotten of God doeth no sin, because his seed abideth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is begotten of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. For this is the message which ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another: not as Cain was of the evil one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Marvel not, brethren, if the world hateth you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, be-

cause we love the brethren. He that loveth not abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby know we love, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath the world's goods, and beholdeth his brother in need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how doth the love of God abide in him? *My* little children, let us not love in word, neither with the tongue; but in deed and truth. Hereby shall we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before him: because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, we have boldness toward God; and whatsoever we ask we receive of him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, even as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments abideth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he gave us.

## Prayer

*J. Campbell White*

OUR Father in heaven, and also dwelling in the hearts of all Thy children, we thank Thee that we know that even now in this world of sin, we are Thy children and that we have already passed out of death into eternal life. We thank Thee for Thy love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to love with Thy love and giving us the assurance of experience that Thy love is able to include the unlovely and the naturally repulsive in the hope of winning them to loveliness and likeness to Thee. We thank Thee that Christ came to destroy the works of the devil in the world and in our hearts, and that He is able to do all that He has undertaken. We praise Thee for the victory that He makes possible moment

by moment to every life that abides in Him. Help us to walk and work, we pray Thee, as trustful, obedient children of Thine, that with unshaken confidence in Thee, we may daily receive the answers to our prayers; that we may evermore be conscious of our union with Thee; and that out from our lives may flow rivers of blessing from Thee into the needy and thirsty world.

Through Jesus Christ, our ever-present and all-sufficient Savior. Amen.

# God Is Love

*Bible Reading 99* *I. John 4:*

BELOVED, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God: and this is the *spirit* of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and now it is in the world already. Ye are of God, *my* little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they *as* of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us: hereby we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son *to be* the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son

of God, God abideth in him, and he in God. And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us. God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him. Herein is love made perfect with us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, even so are we in this world. There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth out fear, because fear hath punishment; and he that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, cannot love God whom he hath not seen. And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.

## Prayer

*Benjamin B. Warfield*

MOST Gracious Father, we praise Thee for the greatness of the love with which Thou hast loved us. We thank Thee that Thou hast sent Thine only-begotten Son to die that we might through Him live. We thank Thee that Thou hast given us of His Spirit that we may know that we are in Him. We thank Thee that Thou hast shed love abroad in our hearts that we too may love; love Thee as Thou hast loved us; love our brethren as Thou hast loved them and us, and sent Thy Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Grant that we may accept no standard of love but the standard of Thy love; and may never be satisfied until we love as Thou dost love and so approve ourselves as Thy children. Let no hatred find place in our hearts; no jealousy consume us; no envy torment our souls. Make our hearts soft in the presence of human weakness, strong in the presence of human need; and put that spirit in us which was in our Lord and Savior who loved us though we were unlovely; and died for us though we were unworthy. Help us to live day by day as Thy children here; and, as children should, to look forward without fear to

Thine appointments hereafter, and every day that we live, make us to know Thee better, to serve Thee more fully, and to love Thee more supremely. We ask all in the name of Jesus. Amen.

# The New Heaven and Earth

*Bible Reading 100* *Revelation 21:22:7:*

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth are passed away; and the sea is no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God: and he shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and death shall be no more; neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more: the first things are passed away. And he that sitteth on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he saith, Write: for these words are faithful and true. And he said unto me, They are come to pass. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit these things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part *shall be* in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death. * * *

And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God the Almighty, and the Lamb, are the temple thereof. And the city hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine upon it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamp thereof *is* the Lamb. And the nations shall walk amidst the light thereof: and the kings of

the earth bring their glory into it. And the gates thereof shall in no wise be shut by day (for there shall be no night there): and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it: and there shall in no wise enter into it anything unclean, or he that maketh an abomination and a lie: but only they that are written in the Lamb's book of life. * * *

And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein: and his servants shall serve him; and they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* on their foreheads. And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. * * *

And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, These that are arrayed in the white robes, who are they, and whence came they? And I say unto him, My lord, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they that come out of the great tribulation, and they washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God; and they serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall spread his tabernacle over them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun strike upon them, nor any heat: for the Lamb that is in the midst of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them unto fountains of waters of life: and God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes.

## Prayer

*St. Augustine*

MOTHER JERUSALEM, holy city of God, dear Spouse of Christ, my heart loveth thee, my mind greatly desireth thy beauty. Thou art all beauteous, and there is no spot in thee. Happy my soul, yea happy ever and for aye, if I shall merit to gaze upon thy glory, thy blessedness, thy beauty, thy gates and

walls, thy streets, thy many mansions, thy most noble citizens, and thy most mighty King, our Lord, in His loveliness. Naught is there in thee such as we suffer here, such as we behold in this miserable life. There is no darkness in thee, no night, nor any diversity of seasons. There shineth not in thee the light of any lamp, nor brightness of the moon, nor beam of stars; but God of God, the Light of light, the Son of Righteousness, ever enlighteneth thee; the Lamb argent and spotless, radiant and most beauteous, is thy light. Thy sun, thy clearness and all thy good is the contemplation of this most beauteous King. There is the sweet solemnity of all them that return from this sad pilgrimage unto thy joys. There Charity reigneth full and perfect, because God is all in all, whom they see without end, and ever seeing are ardent in His love. They love and praise, they praise and love without ceasing.

Lord Jesus, King of Paradise,
  O keep me in Thy love,
And guide me to that happy land
  Of perfect rest above;
Where loyal hearts, and true
  Stand ever in the light
All rapture through and through
  In God's most holy sight.

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